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From, *Ledger*
Pottstown Pa.

Date, *Oct. 2^d 1894.*

A RARE OLD BOOK.

The Laws Passed by the Third Congress
and Signed by President Washington,

A rare book, of value to antiquarians, has recently come into possession of our townsman Thomas Beekley, the well known contractor. It is a "rusty, rusty" old volume, "Printed in Philadelphia, 1795, by Francis Childs, Printer of the Laws of the United States," and is entitled "Acts Passed at the Third Congress of the United States of America, Begun and Held at the City of Philadelphia, in the State of Pennsylvania, on Monday, the 2d of December, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety-Three, and of the Independence of the United States the Eighteenth." The first thing in the volume is the official certificate of Edmund Randolph, Secretary of State, to the correctness of the copies of the laws therein printed; then follow the acts, fifty-six in number, passed at the first session and sixty-five acts and seven resolutions passed at the second session of the Third Congress. Each act is signed by Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, Speaker of the House of Representatives; John Adams, Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate, or Ralph Izard, President *pro tempore* of the Senate the first session, or Henry Tazewell, President *pro tempore* of the Senate the second session of the Third Congress; the said acts being approved by "Go: Washington, President of the United States."

The first act passed by the Third Congress, first session, is one changing the flag of the United States. This act is very brief, only forty-two words, "That from and after the first day of May, anno domini one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five, the flag of the United States be fifteen stripes, alternate red and white. That the Union be fifteen stars, white in a blue field." Among the acts of the same session are one "to provide a naval armament," one "allowing Major General La Fayette his pay and emolument while in the service of the United State," one "to establish the post-office and post roads within the United States" and one "to compensate Gen. Arthur St. Clair."

The first act passed by the Third Congress was an act "to authorize the President to call out and station a corps of militia in the four western counties of Pennsylvania, for a limited time." This was done to suppress the Pennsylvania "whisky insurrection" and gave President Washing-

ton power to put in the field a force not exceeding 2500 men for a term not exceeding three months. Among the other acts of the second session of same Congress was one for the "payment of \$4000 for the use of the daughters of the late Count de Grasse."

The old volume contains, also, copies of Indian Treaties—one with the Cherokees, signed by Henry Knox, Secretary of War and by thirteen chiefs of the Cherokee nation; also one with the Six Nation Indians, signed by Timothy Pickering, Indian Agent and fifty-nine sachems, chiefs and warriors of the Six Nations. Among the curious Indian names to this last treaty are "Sonh-yoo-wan-na, or Big Sky," "Sen-qui-dong-guee, or Little Beard," "Ken-jan-an-gus, or Stinking Fish," "Jith-koo-ga, or Green Grasshopper," "Ti-ooh-qnot-ta-kan-na, or Woods on Fire," "Santaka-ong-yees, or Two Skies of a Length," and Kan-je-a-ga-onh, or Heap of Dogs."

There are various other matters of interest in this ancient volume, which we should like to print, if space permitted.

From, *Republican*
Lansdale Pa.

Date, *Oct. 3^d 1894.*

"THE SINGHOUSE TAVERN"

An Interesting History of an Old Hostelry.

In the history of Gwynedd from its earliest period this has been a noted vicinity, around which cluster many memorable occurrences. In 1698 John Humphrey settled here, and the Friends held their first meeting, for worship. Mention is made of a road being in use from here to the Pennypack Mills in 1702. Soon after 1704 the road was extended from the city, by this place, to the North Wales meeting house, a mile and a half distant. A bridge near by is mentioned as having been constructed before 1711. The road leading from here to Richland was confirmed in 1717, and was the commencement of the present Bethlehem road. From this point to Horsham meeting house the road was confirmed in 1723, and the Goshenhoppen or Sumneytown road in 1735. We see by this date that through the construction of these several highways and the extension of settlements farther into the interior this spot was calculated before long to become, in consequence, an important traveling centre.

The town of Bethlehem, on the Lehigh river, thirty-eight miles distant, was founded in 1741, and all travel from there and the surrounding country, as well as from Allentown, to Philadelphia, was confined to the road passing by this place. It is probable that it was not long after the latter date that the first inn was located here, but at what exact time and by whom we are unable to say. Benjamin Davis kept a public house at this point from 1758 to 1774. In April, 1758, Daniel Kunekler, on his journey from Bethlehem to Philadelphia, with six Indians in his charge, mentions stopping here. In a table of distances on the Bethlehem road, published in 1769, "Benjamin Davis" is mentioned as being sixteen miles from the city. The first stage line passing through the present county was started in September, 1763, from Bethlehem to Philadelphia, making one weekly trip and stopping at this inn.

The road from this place, by the present Penlynn to Boehm's church, was laid out in the spring of 1769, and mention is made in the report of its "beginning near a stone springhouse in Gwnedd road." Here we can perceive what has led to the origin of the name. This fact is further confirmed in a description of the tavern in 1827, wherein mention is made of a "durable spring of water a short distance from the door, over which is a stone milk house." General Laeey mentions the "Springhouse Tavern" in his dispatches of 1777, and the name is also mentioned in a report of a raid made in this direction by the British in February, 1779. That it is a striking and a peculiar name there is no question, and it must, therefore, have originated here from just some such local cause.

Christian Dull, or rather Doll, in the German, of whom we shall give a few additional particulars, succeeded Davis as inn-keeper. He was a native of Perkiomen, and his father bearing the same name, is mentioned in the census of that township, taken in 1756, as having seven children and renting from Solomon DuBois one thousand acres of land, whereof two hundred are cleared. John Dull, who was probably a brother, is mentioned as a taxable and residing there in 1776. It is likely that Catharine Doll was also one of those seven children. She was married in this county to Charles J. Krauth. Their son, Charles Porterfield Krauth, D. D., LL D., who died in 1883

aged sixty years, was one of the most eminent divines and scholars in the Lutheran church. Christian Dull removed to the Springhouse in 1772, where he was rated in 1776 as holding a tavern, eight acres of land, a horse and cow. The Revolution breaking out, he actively espoused the cause of his country. Owing to the connivance of some well-to-do people in this vicinity concerned in furnishing supplies of provision and information to the British in Philadelphia, General Laeey stationed a portion of his men here for a short time to make arrests and intercept and check such practices.

The American army suffering greatly in December, 1777, for clothing, at Valley Forge, he was appointed to collect such supplies in his vicinity and forward them at once for their use. For the part he had taken in the war, on the organization of the Fourth Battalion of Philadelphia County Militia, commanded by Colonel William Dean, he was chosen and commissioned a captain of one of the companies to be raised in his township. By accepting these several charges he was placed in a delicate position, much more so through a considerable majority of the surrounding population being bent on remaining neutral during the contest. Among his other duties was to report the fines of delinquents for not attending the musterings. No sooner did the war close than slander was busy to ruin his character and business. In the *Philadelphia Gazette* of February 17, 1793, he was induced, in consequence, to have inserted an advertisement offering a reward of one hundred guineas for the author of a report that he was "privy in robbing a collector." Some of the neutrals, or rather, disaffected, in attending the Philadelphia market, reported there that himself and wife had been guilty of murdering one or more travelers, who had stopped at his house, for their property. To this he replied in the spring of 1789, and again offered a similar reward. He states as to the latter that he had seven children, "several of them young and helpless." That such reports were damaging to the keeper of a public house we do not wonder, even if they never have been proven. With it all, Christian Dull outlived many of his enemies, thrived in business and attained a good old age, closing his career as the landlord of the Springhouse Tavern about the beginning of 1822.

He made a will, appointing John Rob-

as one of his executors, but Roberts died in 1823, aged seventy-three years, and therefore did not survive long enough to assist in carrying out the trust. John Roberts had been for many years a store-keeper here, and on the most friendly terms with Mr. Dull. The property was advertised at public sale November 8, 1827. It was described as "that well-known stand, commonly called the Springhouse tavern, situate at the junction of the Bethlehem pike and the Allentown road, eighteen miles from Philadelphia, containing nineteen acres of land, a commodious stone tavern and stone house, in which store has been kept for more than thirty years past and stabling for more than one hundred horses." Mention is made, besides, of two other dwellings, a blacksmith and wheelwright shop, and an adjoining farm of one hundred and twenty-six acres, with good buildings. This all denotes that Christian Dull, in his residence here of half a century, certainly did much for the improvement of the place. The extensive stabling will show what an amount of travel and hauling must have been exclusively confined to the highways, since so much reduced by railroads. An additional stage line was placed on the road from Bethlehem in 1797, which also stopped here. What greatly added to the business of this stand was its suitable distance from the city for all travelers or market men stopping in coming or going that way. In October, 1804, Alexander Wilson, the distinguished ornithologist, with his two companions, on their pedestrian journey from Philadelphia to the Falls of Niagara, remained over night there, and in his poem of "The Foresters" gives the following amusing account:

"The road was good, the passing scenery gay,
Mile after mile passed unperceived away.
Till in the west the day began to close,
And Springhouse tavern furnished us repose.
Here two long rows of market folks were seen,
Ranged front to front, the table placed between.
Where bags of meat, and bones and crusts of bread,
And hunks of bacon all around were spread;
One pint of beer from lip to lip went round,
And scarce a crumb the hungry house-dog found;
Torrents of Dutch from every quarter came,
Pigs, calves and sour-kraut the important theme
While we, on future plans resolving deep,
Discharged our bills and straight retired to sleep."

From "the two long rows of market folks" described, we can judge of the extent of Christian Dull's business at that

time. This description of the economical arrangement of farmers taking their provisions along in going to market is no doubt true, and was even carried still further, by their sleeping on the bar room floors at night. Gordon, in his "Gazetteer of Pennsylvania," published in 1832, has well said that the Springhouse is "a noted tavern." Four incorporated turnpikes meet here, the first constructed from Chestnut Hill in 1804, and the last to Penlyu and the Blue Bell in 1872. John Murray had the post office established in 1829. The completion of the North Pennsylvania Railroad to Bethlehem, in 1857, was the first great blow to the travel on the roads, which has since more and more diminished through the construction of other railroads. The old stand here was kept by David Blyler for some time. On the opposite corner another public house was established by Thomas Scarlett, and kept as such for many years, now occupied as a store and for a post office. On the division of Gwynedd into two districts, in 1876, the voters of the lower section were authorized to hold their elections at the present public house on the site of the famous old hostelry, whose name it perpetuates.—*North Wales Record.*

From, *Republican*
Lansdale Pa.
Date, *Oct. 3rd 1894.*

THE HUGHES FAMILY, AND LANDS, IN TOWAMENCIN.

The Hughes family were Welsh people, the original members being Quakers, and they were among the first settlers of Towamencin. The last owner of the Hughes' lands was Owen Hughes, who a few years ago sold his farm and removed to Lansdale. John J. Troxel now owns his homestead and the old tavern house of former days stood on the opposite side, where William Anders now lives. This was a famous inn in its time, and was known as such long before the Revolution. Here the elections were held and much travel stopped. The Hughes lands extended from the hillside southeast of the Towamencin creek, a mile below

Kulpsville, down to the Gwynedd line, embracing two hundred acres, part of which was on the southwest side of the highway.

The family possessed an old Welsh Bible, printed in London in 1717, which Morgan Hughes could read more readily than English. His death occurred in 1726. His children were Dorothy, born in 1698; Elizabeth in 1706; Benjamin, in 1708; Katharine, in 1709, and Edward in 1711. We lack the knowledge to trace more than one branch of this family. Edward Hughes had children; Owen born in 1736; Isaac, in 1738, Ann, in 1740, and Elizabeth in 1743. Edward, the father of this family, died in 1769, at the age of 58. Again we trace the children of only Owen Hughes, the oldest son. There were John, born in 1767, and married Sarah Tennis; Catharine, who married Isaiah Bell; Sarah, to Joseph Potts; Elizabeth, to Israel Teunis; Edward, to Ury Aaron, of Hilltown, and Ann, to Adam Ulrich. It appears that the Owen Hughes, who acquired the property by the will of his father in 1769, conveyed the same by his own will of 1796 to his son Owen. In 1805, this Owen in turn made his will conveying to his son Edward, who in 1812 sold to Henry Snyder 80 acres, retaining now 70 acres on the northwest side. The names Owen and Edward were favorite ones in the Hughes family and their frequent recurrence is apt to cause errors in the written of the genealogy.

No writer of local history has told us the time when the Hughes family bought their homestead, and this may never be known. The best supposition is that it was not far from 1725 or 1730, though it may have been some years earlier. It was 150 acres, comprising the present farm of Aaron Snyder and the Oberholtzer farm, reaching from the Gwynedd line along the northeast side of the turnpike. It was part of lands earlier held by the Claypooles, father and son, but not improved by them.

Whilst we are not certain that Morgan Hughes was the purchaser, yet probabilities point that way, as at the above dates, his sons were quite young men. At any rate after his death in 1726, his son Edward, seems to have become the owner, and continued as such during his lifetime. The early house, was of stone, a little farther down the meadow bank than the present Snyder farm house.

WILL OF EDWARD HUGHES—1764:

To my son Isaac, £150, to my daughter Elizabeth, £55; to my daughter Ann, £50; to my son Owen, my message plantation of 150 acres, who is also to be my sole executor. This will was made October 22, 1764, and witnessed by John Evans and John Ambler. It was presented for registry May 2, 1769.

Owen Hughes was the owner during the Revolution, and down to 1796, when he devised his estate to his son Owen, comprising 148 acres. Owen Hughes was enrolled in Captain Springer's Militia

Company in 1775. He was tax collector of Towamencin in 1776. In that year he was assessed for 148 acres, three horses and five cows. In 1773, it is said that one Hugh Hughes kept a tavern at or near Kulpsville.

THE FORMER OWEN HUGHES PROPERTY, TOWAMENCIN.

The farm and fine mansion is now the property of John J. Troxell. It is on the northeast side of the turnpike, immediately opposite the Anders' farm. A cross road, close to the dwelling divides the property. This was a Hughes estate from 1807 till 1885. The old history of the land is as follows:

1685. By patent to James Claypoole, 1000 acres.

1714. Claypoole to Hugh Pugh, 280 acres.

1743. Pugh to John Roberts, 180 acres, for £118.

1750. John Roberts and Jacob Overhold to Abram Heidrich, fifty acres. Heidrich died leaving a widow, Catharine, who married a Lukeus. Conrad Weber was her heir at her death, as says an old deed.

1791. Conrad Weber sold to Christian Weber 50 acres.

1797. Christian Weber to John Newberry.

1807. Newberry to Isaac Hughes, son of Owen Hughes. The latter belonged to the militia company of Captain John Springer in the Revolution. Isaac Hughes, born about 1772, married Rachel Tennis. His ownership continued during a long life. In 1855, his heirs, Jane, wife of Joseph Supplee, of Worcester, and Eliza Hughes, conveyed their rights to Owen Hughes, who in 1885 sold to John J. Troxell.

THE FORMER HUGHES PROPERTY—THE OLD HUGHES TAVERN.

The farm and mansion is now the residence of William Anders. It is not the oldest Hughes property, but was owned by that family from 1802 to 1868. The farm is pleasantly situated on the southwest side of the Kulpsville road, a mile southeast of that village. Here was the Hughes tavern, famous in its time as a much frequented inn. It ceased to have a license about 1844.

To go back to the beginning, we find that in 1710, Demis Kemders, or Courad, sold 275 acres to a Hollander named John Lukens. This tract ran from the cross road nearly up to Kulpsville or to the next cross road. In 1735 his son Joseph Lukeus succeeded in the ownership. The will of Joseph Lukens was made in 1777, and ten years later his executors Peter Lukens, John Lukeus and John Mayberry, sold to Christian Weber. In 1802 Weber sold John Hughes 107 acres for £1350. In 1828, after the death of John Hughes, his other heirs, comprising, Sarah, his widow, Robert Kenderdine and Mary his wife, and Ann Hughes, conveyed to William Hughes. The latter was the owner for just forty years. The later

transfers have been. 1868, William Hughes to A. D. Harley; 1871, Harley to George W. Haines; 1872, Haines to Harley again; 1873, Harley to John D. Morgan; 1873, Morgan to John W. Monteith; 1873, Monteith to William Wheeler Hubbell; 1873, Hubbell to Andrew Anders, 100 acres.

From, *Repository*
Chambersburg Pa.
Date, *Oct. 11 "1894"*

THE OLDEST CHURCH.

The Church - Ancient Lutheran
Landmark

The old "Trappe Church," on the Reading turnpike, about nine miles above Norristown, and in the village of Trappe, is the oldest Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and it is one of the very few provincial churches which at the present day retains their primitive interior furnishing, as well as the original exterior form.

The quaint exterior, with rough-hewn walls, now plastered over, but formerly of local brownstone, with white pointed joints, the strangely-angled hip roof, the stone porches on the south and west fronts, arched and plastered; the octagonal projection to the east, and the Latin inscription over the main door, are features which have tended to make the old landmark a favorite spot for both artist and antiquary.

More interesting still is the interior. There is the same high pulpit and sounding board of unvarnished walnut, under which the Patriarch Muhlenburg, at the age of 32, first sounded the notes of orthodox Lutheran faith to the Germans in the province of Penn.

It was from this identical pulpit that the fiery soldier preacher, Peter Muhlenberg, and his diplomatic brother, Frederick Augustus, preacher and statesman, both sons of the Patriarch, expounded the faith to the descendants of the early pioneers prior to the revolution. There is still the same altar or communion table, movable on the floor, so at the same time to conform to the requirements of the Church of England; the same ancient unpainted pews, the rough planed wood, polished smooth by the gener-

ations of worshippers, while in the small white panels on the pew doors the old numbers can still be traced.

Against every high raised back rests the unique bookfolder, recording the privileged rights of the former members through the figures 1, 2, 3, etc., burnt in with a branding iron. The pews in the eastern angle were reserved for the "Eldeste" and "Vorsteher," while servants, boys and strangers were relegated to the "Ponkirche," as the unique hanging gallery was called. This gallery extends around three sides of the church, and is carried by projecting ashlar in the wall and supported by several hewn posts in the centre, the whole being kept in place by iron straps which connect with the oaken supports. The east gallery was used as a choir loft, and contained one of the first organs in rural Pennsylvania. The entrance to this gallery is secured by a grated door, with a ponderous lock, to keep out unbidden guests. No stoves were used during the provincial period, and it is said that only old or decrepit women were wont to avail themselves of a foot warmer.

CHURCH CENTENNIAL.

The Coming Program at Falling Spring - *Chel*
Presbyterian. *less m*

Until 1794 the Falling Spring Presbyterian church was united with the church in Greencastle. In the year mentioned it became a separate pastorate. The 100th anniversary of this separate existence will be duly celebrated by the congregation on November 10th, 11th and 12th. The Central Presbyterian church, being an offshoot from the Falling Spring, has been invited to join in the services. The program is as follows:

Saturday evening, the 10th, an address by Rev. S. J. Nicolis D. D., of St. Louis, on "Church and home 100 years ago."

Sabbath morning, 11th, Rev. J. A. Crawford D. D. will give a history of the church. In the evening Rev. Drs. Nicolls, Crawford and J. Grier Hibben, the latter from Princeton, will give reminiscences of their pastorates.

Monday evening, 12th, the personal history of some of the former pastors will be given by Rev. H. R. Schenck. This will be followed by a social gathering, in charge of the ladies, in the chapel.

From, *Transcript*

Sheepack Pa.

Date, *Oct. 19th 1894.*

SUMNEYTOWN.

One of the oldest brick houses in the upper part of Montgomery county is on the property of Daniel Kransé, recently offered at sale. It bears the date of 1757 and was probably built by Daniel Hiester, an uncle of Governor Joseph Hiester. Daniel's three sons served in the army of the Revolution and afterwards became members of Congress. He (Daniel) was rated here in 1776 as holding 180 acres of land, one negro, three horses, three cows and a tannery. So it can be seen that the farm was once worked by slaves, and that the house was built long before slavery was abolished in Pennsylvania.

From, *Times*

Marristown Pa.

Date, *Oct. 19th 1894.*

An Old Burial Ground.

About a mile and a half from Gwynedd on the Skippack pike near the latter place, back from the roadside, is an ancient burial ground. The spot is situated in the most wierd region, and even in day time the appearance of the black head stones, the drooping trees and a dense forest on every side walling in the cemetery, suggest the very witching hour of night, when churchyards yawn, etc. The inscription on two headstones read, Charles Kres, born 1694, died, November 10th, 1766, aged 72 years. Barbara Kres, died, January 16th, 1757, aged 62 years.

From, *Republican*

Phoenixville Pa.

Date, *Oct. 25th 1894.*

SUMNEYTOWN.

A Brief History and Description of an Old Village.

Sumneytown is one of the oldest villages in the upper part of Montgomery county. It is situated on the north side of the Swamp creek, about half a mile south of the borough of Green Lane.

Nicholas Scull in 1758 mentions Dorn's Inn as located here at the fork of the Maxatawny and Macungie roads, now the Springhouse and Sumneytown and Gerysville turnpike.

The village was named after Isaac Sumney, who in 1763 purchased a large tract of land in Marlborough township which included part of the present site of the village. Shortly after the purchase he kept a tavern here, continued in the business for some time, and probably succeeded Dorn. The building which he occupied was torn down in 1885 by the owner Samuel Barndt and in its stead he erected a large three-story brick building.

The earliest mention we have found of the name Sumneytown as applied to this place is found on Howell's large map, published 1792, on which this place is so designated.

On January 19, 1802, an act was passed by the House of Representatives, creating the Eighth District, composed of the townships of Upper Hanover, Marlborough, Upper Salford and Franconia. The general elections were authorized to be held at the house of John Sheid, at Sumneytown.

At what time the post-office was established at Sumneytown we are unable to say, but it was prior to 1827.

Gordon in his *Gazetteer*, in 1832, mentions that Sumneytown contains one tavern, two stores and twelve dwellings. From 1828 to 1858 the *Bauern Freund*, was printed here, when the proprietor, Enos Benner, sold out and the paper was moved to Pennsylvania.

Sumneytown was for a long time a centre of powder and linseed oil manufacture. The first powder mill in this section was erected in the year 1780 by Jacob Dast. It was located on the East Swamp creek. Powder and high explosives are yet manufactured here and shipped to all parts of the country and to Cuba.

This place at present contains a post office, one store, two hotels, an academy one church, a confectionery, barber, blacksmith, tinsmith, saddler, job printing office, two cigar factories, about fifty dwelling houses and a number of other tradesmen usually found in a country village.

From, *Republican*
Lansdale Pa.

Date, *Nov. 7th 1894.*

LOCAL HISTORY.

The Schall Mill, Upper Gwynedd, Former Owners—Howell, Rosenberger, Seigfritz, the Beavers, Garners, Gross, Leverings and Schall.

This mill situated on the Wissahickon, about half a mile northeast of North Wales, belongs to the heirs of George Schall. Its wheels are now silent, and very little or no grinding has been done there for three years past. It ranks among the very old mill sites in Montgomery county. The present mill was built by John Levering Heist, nearly forty years ago, and later steam propulsion was attached. It never became a roller mill, however, and the competition of the more convenient later process mills, decreed its former business to depart. It is notable as having been the grist mill nearest the sources of the Wissahickon, among some twenty-three that formerly existed on that stream. The sources of the Wissahickon are only two miles away to the northeast in Montgomery township, but its waters had attained a volume and a fall which in early times indicated this as a mill site. About seventeen acres of field and meadow, of irregular shape, are attached to the property, and the house and mill stand closely adjoining on the southeast bank of the lowland beside the brook. The mill dam is at a considerable distance up the stream, near the Lansdale road, from which a long race led the water to its appointed work.

GEORGE HOWELL.

This a very old mill site, and the exact time when a mill was erected is invaluable in obscurity. It is on land first conveyed to Evan Hugh, a Welshman, in 1700, who obtained a narrow strip all the way across Gwynedd township. Edward Hugh became the next owner. Before 1726 this land along the Wissahickon had become

possessed by Ellis Roberts. In 1726 George Howell bought the neighboring Pennbrook farm, lying across the Wissahickon, of John Davis. Between 1737 and 1750 Howell obtained the mill site and erected a mill. His mill dam is mentioned in a conveyance of 1753. Since the middle of the last century there is a complete chain of title of the various owners, with but one exception.

BENJAMIN ROSENBERGER.

At some unknown date, between 1750 and 1760, Benjamin Rosenberger, a German, became the owner of the mill lot and another property of 41 acres to the south, now the Ray farm. Rosenberger was a rover, a trader, speculator and dealer, owning many properties in this county, and not holding many long. His first appearance in our county history was in 1739 as the purchaser of Morris and Frick farms in Hatfield, at Line Lexington containing 125 acres. Next he held another farm of 112 acres in Hatfield further southwest. Next he purchased the late Server farm, just north of Lansdale, which he sold in 1760. Then he got down to gwynedd, buying a farm at Friends' Corner of Cadwalder Foulke in 1766, which he held ten years. After he got through with the mill on the Wissahickon he bought the later Heisler farm, near Kneeder's tavern. Finally Rosenberger ended his roving career on a farm he owed in Franconia in 1777, which he left to his widow Helena. His sons were of the same speculative disposition, and they have left many descendants.

JACOB SEIGFRITZ.

Seigfritz was the next owner, and also a German. He bought of Rosenberger in 1762, who conveyed to him "a water grist mill, house and piece of land." In that conveyance Seigfritz was termed a miller. He held the mill for thirteen years, or till the beginning of the Revolution as well as the 41 acre farm, which he bought of Rosenberger in 1769. After a time Seigfritz began to feel the pressure of debt, and the property was mortgaged to the amount of £400 to Thomas White, of Philadelphia. This doubtless impelled the sale of the property, and he received £225 beyond the mortgage. In 1776 Seigfritz remained in Gwynedd, and was assessed for a horse and two cows. He left descendants of note, some of whom lived in New Britain at the beginning of the present century, and were very poor. Simeon Seigfritz acquired an education and became editor and preacher, publishing a newspaper in the city of Wheeling. One of his sons, Rev. Thomas Seigfritz, an eloquent preacher, was pastor of the Norristown Baptist church a dozen years ago, but died in the prime of his usefulness.

BARNET BEAVER.

The Beavers are supposed to be of Highlander origin, and the family is of long existence in Montgomery county. The name in old documents was spelled "Bieber," which is the same as that borne by

ment, land holder, Mathias Van Beber, or Bieber, and Perkiomen was often called "Bebber's township" down to the time of the Revolution. John Beaver first made his appearance in Gwynedd before 1760 as the owner of the later Hiesler's tavern, now Kneedler's. He died in November, 1762, whilst yet a man of middle age. His estate was sold by Sheriff Rodman in 1763 to the widow Magdalena, who later married Jacob Heisler. Barnet Beaver, born in 1754, was one of the five children of John Beaver, and was a miller by trade. He died in 1801 at the age of 47. The mill property remained in the hands of the Beaver family for two generations, or from 1775 to 1822, or nearly half a century. Since that time the mill has had the singular experience of being four times sold by the Sheriff and once conveyed by a bankrupt assignment. In 1806 John Beaver, eldest son of Barnard, took the property at a valuation of £960, but transferred it to his brother Henry in 1808. In 1822, the mill and 19 acres were seized by Sheriff Philip Sellers as the property of John Beaver and sold to Peter Garner, who paid \$710 subject to a dower payable to Susannah, widow of Barnet Beaver. The latter survived till 1847, reaching the age of ninety-one.

THE GARNERS.

The Garners are an old family, who have been in Gwynedd since 1790. They have since spread into Hatfield, Hilltown, New Britain and Warrington. John Garner, the progenitor, landed in Philadelphia either in 1749 or 1751. He first appeared in this part of the country in 1769, when he bought the present farm of A. G. Ruth, on the county line in New Britain. This he sold in 1783 to Philip Reed. In 1790 he purchased the present farm of Simon Knipe and other lands in Gwynedd of the heirs of John Davis. Charles Garner, now living near the mill is one of his descendants. Peter Garner was one of the eight children of John Garner.

In 1844, another Sheriff, James Wells, seized the mill as the property of Silas Garner and sold it to Samuel Gross. A few years later Gross was killed one winter morning by slipping from the water wheel, where he had gone to cut the ice with an axe. He left children, Marietta, Ann Eliza and Rachel, whose guardian was Jacob N. Baker. Bereft of her husband, the stricken widow could not long hold possession. Again in 1852 the Sheriff, Philip Hahn, came along and sold the mill as the property of Elizabeth Gross to Henry L. Freedley. In 1854, Freedley, who was not a resident or a miller, sold to John L. Heist.

THE HEISTS.

The Heists came here from Whitpain, and were sons of John Heist, who kept the tavern at Franklinville and was Justice of the Peace there for many years. They were descendants of the Leverings, proprietors there since 1730. John Levering Heist assigned the mill to his brother Dr. Daniel Levering Heist in 1865. John

L. Heist is yet living in Philadelphia, but his brother, the physician, died October 30th, 1864, in his 45th year. John L. Heist, during his ownership, had built a new mill. John J. Kaufman succeeded in the ownership.

Once more the Sheriff intervened in the person of Jacob Tyson, who sold to Septimus Kriebel in 1880. A year later Kriebel conveyed to Mrs. Amelia P. Schall, wife of George Schall. The latter died about a year ago at the age of seventy-five.

E. M.

From, *Republican*
Lausdale Pce.
 Date, *Nov. 7th 1894.*

Three Historical Notes of Interest.

Sumneytown, a village in Marlboro, of powder mill fame, started from Doon's Inn, which before 1758 was situated at the fork of the Maxatawny and Macungie high roads. The village was named from Isaac Sumney, who in 1763 purchased a large tract of land covering the present site of the village and succeeded Doon as tavern keeper. In 1832 it had two stores, a tavern and a dozen houses. It now has fifty houses, a church and an academy. The first powder mill was erected in 1780 by Jacob Dast.

Flues' old silk mill on the Wissahickon, below Ambler, is fast going to decay. It was transformed into a silk mill by Eberhart Flues in 1864. It was the former Reiff mill from 1785, to 1838. There was a grist mill on its site ever since 1748, when one was built here by John Burk.

Abram H. Cassel, of library fame, furnishes an interesting sketch of the Johnson family, of Franconia, to the *Harleysville News*. This Johnson family was German, the name being spelled Jantz at first. Mathias Jantz settled on a farm near Elroy in 1734, buying 185 acres of John Williams.

From, *Ledger*
Phila. Pa.
 Date, *Nov. 10th 1894.*

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.

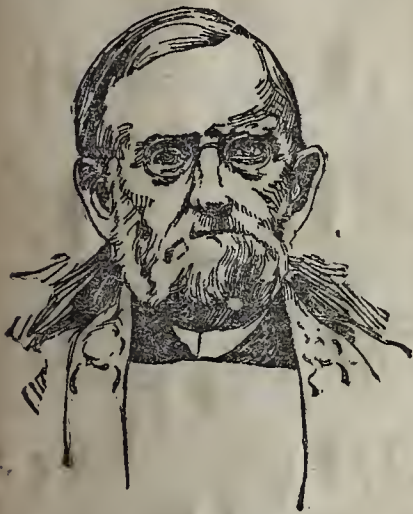
ITS EIGHTIETH ANNIVERSARY TO BE
 CELEBRATED TO-MORROW.

The Third Episcopal Church in Montgomery County—Early Rectors—Various Alterations—All Saints' Chapel.

[SPECIAL TO THE PUBLIC LEDGER.]

NORRISTOWN, Nov. 9.—In pleasing contrast with the days when it was the only church in the place, St. John's, Norristown, to-morrow celebrates its 80th anniversary. "Near one hundred houses, including public buildings, one clergyman, five lawyers, five taverns and a daily stage to Philadelphia," is the graphic description of Norristown and its life as it existed in 1816, two years after St. John's Church was completed and four years after the borough of Norristown was incorporated.

A stranger coming back from the days when St. John's was young would see the venerable edifice expanded quite beyond his knowledge, more than a score of other churches and



REV. ISAAC GIBSON.

missious, sixty odd passenger trains daily to Philadelphia, trolley cars, and a beautiful town of more than twenty thousand people.

The congregation of St. John's dates back further than 1813, however, as it is recorded that the church was admitted to the Convention of the Diocese of Pennsylvania in 1812. A charter giving the church a legal existence was secured a little later; in June of the following year James Milnor was engaged as lay reader under a license from Bishop White, and in August of the same year the first meeting of the vestry was held.

St. John's Church, consecrated by Bishop William White in 1815, was the third Episcopal church in Montgomery county, St. Thomas's, Whitmarsh, having been built between 1690 and 1700, and St. James's, Evansburg, in 1721. In this connection it is interesting to note that some of the early Rectors of St. John's divided their time between this parish and that of St. Thomas's, Whitmarsh. The first service, it is supposed, was held in St. John's early in November, 1814, when Jehu Curtis Clay, afterward in charge of Gloria Dei, Philadelphia, was Rector.

The details of the early history of the parish are rather obscure, as the ministers in those days did not keep books for the various uses of the church, loose sheets of paper being used for registers, etc. Some of these leaves were lost, naturally enough, in the course of time, but a few have been preserved, and they show to some extent the growth and condition of the church in those times.

A list of communicants written in 1818 states that there were then 23, in 1832 there were 47, and of these latter, the Rector writes, "not more than 80 are regular in their attendance on the communion." It was not until the Rectorship of Dr. Nathan Stern, who took charge of the church in 1839, that a register was purchased and the foundation for systematic methods laid.

When he commenced his labors there were 38 communicants and at the end of his ministry, in 1859, there were 120. Now there are at St. John's and its Godchild—All Saints' Chapel—as noted in the last convention journal, 500. During the six years administration of one of the earlier Rectors there is not a single record of the number of communicants or of persons confirmed. It is possible that these records had been kept on loose sheets and subsequently lost.

The Rectors.

The Rev. John Curtis Clay served as the first Rector of the church, he having been called on October 28, 1814. Resigning in 1817, he was succeeded by Rev. Thomas P. May, who died in 1819. Mr. May was a young man of great promise, and his death occurred while he was in his 27th year. He was succeeded by one of St. John's famous Rectors, the Rev. Bird Wilson. From 1836 to 1818, Mr. Wilson had served as Judge of Montgomery, Bucks, Chester and Delaware counties with distinguished ability, resigning his high office in order to devote himself to theological studies under Bishop White.

The Bishop ordained him to the diaconate in 1819, and in the following October he was chosen to be Rector of St. John's, which office he held in connection with the Rectorship of St. Thomas's for a little more than two years. In 1821 he resigned to enter the Theological Seminary at New York, where he remained until his death, in 1859. He had risen to high distinction during his life, the University of Pennsylvania having conferred upon him the degree of D.D. in 1821, and Columbia College that of LL.D. in 1845.

The Rev. John Curtis Clay was then called a second time to the charge of St. John's. It was during his second administration that the Convention of the Diocese of Pennsylvania was held in St. John's Church in 1824, and it was also marked by the last visitation of Bishop White to the parish in 1827, when the largest class ever confirmed in the church was received. There were 44 persons in it. Mr. Clay again resigning was succeeded in 1832 by the Rev. John Reynolds, who also resigned in 1838.

Dr. Nathan Stern was the Rector from 1839 to 1859. It was during his administration that the present Rectory was built, and in 1830 he reported to the Bishop that the Rectory, in consequence of the cost exceeding somewhat the sum originally contemplated, had been allowed to become private property, but he indulged the hope that the vestry, "at no distant day, would redeem their character by securing the building for the church." Through the active influence of its women, the parsonage was subsequently purchased—after Dr. Stern's death, some years later.

Of Dr. Stern's influence in the strengthening and building up of St. John's, Mr. Gibson, who is now the Rector, says: "When I came to St. John's, 13 years after the death of Mr. Stern, I was met everywhere by evidences of his deep spiritual influence, and I am still meeting with indications of the fact that St. John's Church of to-day is but a fuller development of St. John's as he left it."

The Rev. John Wourt became Rector early in 1860, and continued until the end of 1863, so that he served the church for nearly four years. Mr. Wourt afterwards became a Chaplain in the United States Army, and he died

short time ago at a very advanced age. Rev. Eaton Maxey succeeded Mr. Woart. His administration witnessed many valuable improvements to the church property, and after a few years of service he resigned in 1867. He was followed a few months later by George W. Brown, who retired after a stay of less than two years.

In 1869 Charles McIlvaine, a son of the late Bishop of Ohio, assumed charge of the congregation, but after a short administration, marked by much earnestness, zeal and devotion in advancing the cause of the spiritual welfare of the parish, he resigned in 1872. On November 1, 1872, the present Rector, Rev. Isaac Gibson, a Virginian by birth, was called from a charge at Covington, Kentucky, to the Pastorate of St. John's.

Various Alterations.

The church, as originally erected, was very different from the present building. It was at first 64 by 50 feet in size, with a low, square tower in the rear 18 by 18 feet, in the base of which was the vestry room. In 1856, under the administration of the Rev. Mr. Stem, extensive improvements were undertaken, in the progress of which 20 feet were added to the length of the church, and the present handsome tower erected and the old one partly removed, leaving that section intact which now contains the vestry room.

A new organ was installed, the improvements altogether involving an expenditure of \$8000, all of which had been paid, it is stated, before the reconsecration of the church by Bishop Alouzo Potter on Good Friday, April 10, 1857.

In 1864 further improvements were inaugurated, the present chapel was built, and the present chancel and vestry room arranged. It required two years' time and \$9693 to complete the work, but the church was quite materially aided by a bequest of \$19,000, \$7000 of which had been appropriated for the improvements.

In 1867 the Rev. George W. Brown instituted further reforms in the architectural scheme of the church, the chancel, organ chamber and other portions of the interior being altered at a cost of over \$100.

Under the administration of the present Rector, Rev. Isaac Gibson, the policy of church improvement has held conspicuous place. The handsome organ now in use was placed in position in 1879. In 1885 some \$4000 were expended in making repairs and in adding improvements to various parts of the church. In 1892 the chancel was beautified with an oak reredos costing about \$600.

This is a particularly fine piece of carving, and the Ladies' Guild which furnished the means for this valuable and artistic feature of the decorations can well be proud of their part in the work. The women of St. John's, by the way, are not the least active in furthering the work of the parish, and ever since the organization of the Ladies' Benevolent Society, in 1839, to the present time, their lively co-operation has been a matter highly appreciated by the vestry.

Several thousand dollars were spent upon the interior and exterior of the church during the summers of 1892 and 1893, the improvements embracing a new roof to the church, new frescoing, new carpeting, etc., and in the work of raising money for this purpose the various societies or organizations, particularly the women connected with the church, bore a large share of the burden.

The Boys' Brigade, the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, the Men's Bible Class, the Ladies' Guild, St. Agnes's Guild, the King's Daughters, the Sewing School, all serve to show that the modern spirit of organization is abroad in St. John's, and the effectiveness of its church work manifests the advantages of such

organizations. In furthering the work of the church the Boyer endowment is also available. This is a fund of \$20,000, and the proceeds of the investment are divided between the charities and the regular expenses of the parish.

All Saints' Chapel.

One of the outgrowths of Mr. Gibson's ministry has been the establishment of a congregation in the west end of Norristown. All Saints' Chapel was built upon land purchased for this purpose in 1889. The structure was consecrated by the Rt. Rev. W. O. Whitaker January 31, 1892. A flourishing mission in East Norristown also engages the attention of many of the workers from St. John's, and steps have been taken to secure a site for the erection of a chapel in that section in the near future.

In the Sunday schools attached to St. John's, All Saints' and the East Norristown Mission there are now, approximately, 600 enrolled, and in the training of the young in these schools a large number of devoted men and women give freely of their time and talents. The Rev. W. Herbert Burk became Assistant Minister of the parish September 1, 1894.

The officers of the church at present are: Wardens, George B. Boggs and John D. Newbold; Treasurer, F. I. Nalle; Secretary, T. S. Adle; Vestry, B. F. Solly, T. S. Adle, George B. Boggs, John D. Newbold, P. Frank Hunter, F. I. Nalle and B. Percy Chain.

From, *Herald*
Norristown Pa.
Date, *Nov. 12* 1894.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Historic Sermon by the Rector,
Rev. Isaac Gibson.

LETTERS FROM REVS. MAXCY AND KAYE

Impressive Services on Sunday Morning, Afternoon and Evening—Addresses by Rev. W. H. Burk, Mr. Lewis H. Redner, Rev. Joseph N. Blanchard, Rev. William N. McVickar, D. D., and Mr. James C. Sellers.

There was a large attendance on Sunday at St. John's P. E. Church, it having been opening day of the exercises in commemoration of the eightieth anniversary. In the morning the Rector, Rev. Isaac Gibson, delivered a very interesting historic sermon, which we print in full, in connection herewith. He was aided in the services by Rev. W. Herbert Burk, assistant rector of St. John's and All Saints churches. Among the congregation were Prof. Thomas May Peirce, wife and son, of Philadelphia. The former is a grandson of Rev. Thomas May, one of the early rectors of St. John's. Mr. Mathias Holstein Henderson, a grandson of Mathias Holstein,

a charter member of 1812, a resident of the West, was also present, together with Mrs. Joseph Potts and Mrs. Juliet C. Walker, of Philadelphia. Mr. Reynolds, of Erie, a son of the late Rev. Mr. Reynolds, was also among the visitors whose families had at one time or another been connected with the church. In the morning letters were read from Rev. E. W. Maxcy, a former pastor, now of Troy, N. Y., and Rev. J. W. Kaye, of Philadelphia, until recently in charge of All Saints Mission. The letters are also given herewith.

The Sunday schools of St. John's, All Saints and East Norristown Mission united in the afternoon anniversary celebration. Addresses were made by Rev. W. Herbert Burk and Mr. Lewis H. Redner, of Philadelphia, before a crowded house.

In the evening the male societies entered the church from the vestry room door and marching down the west aisle and up the middle, singing, took seats at the front. The vestry and visiting clergy were also in the procession. Rev. Mr. Gibson and Rev. Mr. Burk read the service. Ahle addresses were made by Rev. Joseph N. Blanchard, Rev. Wm. N. McVickar, D. D., and Mr. James C. Sellers, the latter of West Chester.

The regular choir was somewhat strengthened, and the music at the services was very fine. There were elaborate floral decorations.

This evening the female societies will take part in the celebration. There will be services and addresses by Rt. Rev. O. W. Whitaker, D. D., and the Rev. A. A. Marple.

On Tuesday evening there will be a general reception in the chapel.

REV. MR. GIBSON'S HISTORICAL ADDRESS.
Hitherto Hath the Lord Helped Us—SAMUEL, 1, 7-12.

To commemorate an event is to show appreciation of its worth and the value of the results which flowed from it, and the events which are most commemorated amongst men are not the very beginnings of great movements but some distinguishing fact which marks their progress towards consummation. We do not distinguishingly commemorate the long line of events preparative of the coming of our Lord, but we make prominent the fact of his birth. So also we commemorate the notable facts of his death and resurrection.

We do not take national notice of the first movements of the colonies towards independence, but we fix attention upon the Declaration of Independence, as marking distinctly progress toward its attainment. In like spirit we have chosen the opening of this House of God as an event giving proof of that life and devotion of the people by which it was built, and as marking the beginning of an era of assumed prosperity. It is not therefore the wood and stone that we honor in these services but the men and women who put them here. And in noting pages, the development of this building, we are not simply paying tribute to the material dedicated to sacred uses, but to those who under the inspiration of faith and love have consecrated their time and substance to the cause of Christ and to the glory of Almighty God.

If we are in this spirit of commemoration today the seemingly dry details, which I am to give, will glow with light and reveal afresh to us, people and scenes, which will warm anew our hearts' affections, and invite us to fuller consecration to our holy calling.

The formation of the congregation in 1812, the laying of the foundation of the church

in 1813 are early events pointing to the one we commemorate—the first services in this church in 1814.

In 1812 the borough of Norristown was incorporated, and in 1813 the foundation of St. John's Church was laid and the building was completed in 1814. The population of Norristown at that time could not have been more than five hundred. The Norristown Herald of 1816 recorded that the town then contained "Near one hundred houses, including public buildings, one clergyman, five lawyers, five taverns, and a daily stage to Philadelphia."

The building committee for St. John's Church were Henry Freedley, Mathias Holstine and Levi Pawling.

On December 17, 1812, the charter was signed by the following persons: Bird Wilson, F. Swaine, Levi Pawling, M. Holstein, John Zeiher, George W. Holstein, Henry Freedley, Sr., Henry Freedley, Jr., Morris Jones, David Thomas, John Markley, George Righter, John Righter, Thomas S. Markley. Vestrymen named in charter: Francis Swain, Bird Wilson, Levi Pawling, Henry Freedley, Mathias Holstein, John Zieher, George W. Holstein.

St. John's was the third Episcopal church built in Montgomery county, St. Thomas' Church, Whitemarsh, having been built between 1690 and 1700, and St. James' Church, Evanshurg, in 1721.

The first service was held in St. John's Church sometime towards the close of the year 1814 and as Rev. Jehu Curtis Clay was called to the rectorship Oct. 28, 1814, it is fair to suppose that the church was then ready for occupancy and that it was opened for the first time early in November following. Unfortunately we have no record of the membership of the church at the time of its organization. There is no record of communicants in the first church register. The only early record consisted of a few loose sheets of paper containing lists of the names of the communicants in 1818, 1821 and 1832. There was a register which contained baptisms, marriages and deaths. The first list was by Rev. Thomas May, and comprised twenty-three names, and the other two by Rev. Jehu C. Clay, the latter consisting of forty-seven names. At the end of this list Mr. Clay wrote, "Not more than thirty of the above are regular in their attendance on the communion."

There exists no later record of the communicants of this church until the rectorship of Dr. Nathan Stem, who upon taking charge of the church in 1839, purchased a new register and laid the foundation of a systematic method, which has been faithfully observed to this day.

According to Dr. Stem there were thirty eight (38) communicants when he became Rector. During the next (10) ten years this number had increased to (123) one hundred and twenty three. In 1859 Dr. Stem made his last report to the Bishop and stated the number of communicants then to be one hundred and twenty (120). At Easter 1867, the Rev. Mr. Maxcy reported the number of communicants to be (191) one hundred and ninety one and in 1872 the Rev. Mr. McIlvaine gave the number as (195) one hundred and ninety five. The present number of communicants in the Parish in St. John's Church and All Saints Chapel, is about (500) five hundred.

I will now give a general view of the various Rectorships in order of time.

The Rev. Jehu Curtis Clay was chosen the first Rector, Oct. 28, 1814. He entered upon his regular duties Jan. 1st, 1815, dividing his time at first between St. John's Church and St. Thomas's Church, Whitemarsh. On April sixth following, St. John's Church was conse-

oy Bishop White, one of the three
ps who organized the Protestant Episco-
Church in these United States.

The first organ was placed in the church
some time during the same year. Mr. Clay re-
signed the Rectorship in 1817, and was suc-
ceeded by the Rev. Thomas May, a young man
of great promise, but whose work was cut
short by death on the 20th of September in the
second year of his Rectorship, and in the 27th
year of his age.

He was followed by Rev. Burd Wilson, who
before entering the Ministry of the church had
served with distinguished ability as Presi-
dent Judge of Montgomery, Bucks, Chester,
since Delaware counties, from 1806 to 1818,
when he resigned his high office and devoted
himself to theological studies under Bishop
White, who ordained him to the Diaconate
in March, 1819. In October following he was
chosen to be Rector of St. John's
Church, which office he held, to-
gether with the charge of St. Thomas'
Church, Whitemarsh, until the autumn of
1821, when he resigned to enter the theologi-
cal seminary at New York as Professor of
Systematic Divinity, which position he held
until 1850, being then retired as Emeritus
Professor, which position he held until his
death, April 14, 1859. He had risen to high
distinction, the degree of D. D. having been
conferred upon him by the University of
Pennsylvania in 1821, and that of LL. D. by
Columbia College in 1845.

The Rev. John C. Clay was re-elected rector
Nov. 15, 1821.

In May, 1824, the Convention of the Dio-
cese of Pennsylvania was held in St. John's
Church. The entertainment of such a large
body of men for several days by so small a
community speaks well for the openhearted
hospitality of our fathers, and at the same time
makes evident the fact that Mr. Clay was a
man of untiring energy.

April 22, 1827, marks the last visitation of
Bishop White to this parish, and this visit
was not only notable for being the last but
for the large number he then confirmed. The
class was the largest ever confirmed in St.
John's Church, numbering forty-four (44)
persons. Mr. Clay closed his pastorate in this
church Jan. 1st, 1832, and was followed by the
Rev. John Reynolds, who held the position
until Nov. 2d, 1838. I find from the records
that he was active in his work, and the bap-
tisms, funerals and marriages were of the
average number, but I find no trace of the
number of communicants or of persons con-
firmed during the six years of his pastorate.
I can only account for this by supposing the
records to have been lost, as the habit among
the early clergy of this church was to keep
such lists of communicants, and of persons
confirmed, upon loose sheets of paper, which
habit has, I trust, disappeared from the whole
church forever. Mr. Reynolds resigned the
rectorship Nov. 2d, 1838.

He was followed by the Rev. Nathan Stem,
who took charge of the church February 17,
1839. On the 18th of May, 1840, a union was
effected between Christ (Swedes') Church,
Upper Merion, and St. John's Church, under
the pastorate of Dr. Stem, and a satisfactory
alternation of services agreed upon, which
union continued until the spring of 1843,
when it was terminated because of the inabil-
ity of the two vestries to agree upon a sched-
ule of services for the coming year. Dr. Stem
was a man of fine, robust character, and one
thoroughly fitted for his work in this par-
ish, which in all departments proved
most successful. He won and held for
more than twenty years the love and
respect of the whole community, and he
left a deep impress of his personal influence
upon the faith and practice of the church.
When I came to the parish, thirteen years

after the death of Doctor Stem, I was met
everywhere by evidences of his deep spiritual
influence, and I am still meeting indications
of the fact that St. John's Church of to-day
is but a fuller development of St. John's
Church as he left it.

In 1849 Dr. Stem reported to the Bishop
that "a new and commodious rectory is in
progress and is now rapidly advancing to-
ward completion." The year following, 1850,
he reported that the rectory, in consequence
of the cost exceeding somewhat the sum
originally contemplated, had been allowed by
the vestry to become private property; but
he indulged the hope that at no distant day
the house would be secured by the vestry
for a permanent rectory, which hope was
realized in 1860, through the efficient aid of
the Ladies Benevolent Society, of which at
that time Mrs. Angella Bean was directress,
Mrs. E. H. Stewart Secretary, Rev. John
Woart being rector.

In the year 1856 extensive improvements
were begun upon the church building. The
original church was 64x59 feet with a low
square tower at the rear of the building 18x18,
in the base of which was the vestry room.
The improvements changed all this. Twenty
feet more were added to the length of the
church, and the present handsome tower
was erected and the old tower partly removed,
leaving only the part containing the old
vestry room. The changes were com-
pleted in 1857, and with the addition of a
new organ made a handsome improvement to
the property of the parish. The cost was
about eight thousand dollars, all of which
had been paid before the reconsecration of
the church by Bishop Alonzo Potter, on
Good Friday, April 10, 1857. The contem-
porary church historian, Mr. John McKay,
informs us that the Bishop used upon that
occasion a modification of the consecration
and institution offices. Ministers present
were Rev. John C. Clay, rector of Gloria Dei,
Philadelphia; Rev. George Mintzer, St.
James, Evansburg; Rev. B. Wistar Morris,
St. Davids, Philadelphia; Rev. George B.
Reese, St. Marks, Milford, Pa.; Rev. Bethel
Claxton, Rev. B. B. Smyser, and Rev. Nathan
Stem.

The building committee consisted of Mr.
Jacob Steinmetz, James W. Schrack, Wm.
Wills, Henry Edey and Rev. Nathan Stem.

About eighteen months after the completion
of this important work, Doctor Stem died.
He was in the prime of life, being only 55
years of age and in full tide of his usefulness
when he was called to his rest.

On January 12, 1860, Rev. John Woart took
charge of the Parish and continued his labors
until December 21, 1863, giving him a pastor-
ate of nearly four years. He afterwards be-
came a chaplain in the U. S. Army. He was
on the army's retired list until a short time
ago, when he died at a very advanced age.

The Rev. Eaton Maxcy was made rector in
June, 1864. He came in the spirit of progres-
sive work. He was greatly aided in this by
a liberal bequest of John Boyer, of about
(\$19,000) nineteen thousand dollars to the
church, (besides three thousand for the
worthy poor). Of the Boyer bequest about
seven thousand dollars were appropriated to
the building of the present chapel and arrang-
ing the present Chancel and Vestry Room.
The entire cost of the improvements com-
pleted in 1866 was \$9633. On May 6th, the
year following, Mr. Maxcy resigned, and on
July 27 following, Rev. George W. Brown
was chosen Rector. During his brief Rector-
ship of about eighteen months the chancel
was decorated and organ chamber built, and
much more was done to improve the interior
of the church building at a cost of \$4109.

The Rev. Charles McIlvain, a son of the
late Bishop of Ohio, became Rector in June,

He was an earnest and zealous pastor and was faithful in his efforts to advance the spiritual welfare of the parish. He resigned in June, 1872.

The present Rector, Isaac Gibson, entered upon his duties November 1, 1872. Of the character of his work it is not fitting that much should be said but, faithfulness as a historian requires that I should name the improvements which have taken place in the church building and the extension of the work in the Parish.

The policy of church improvements has held a conspicuous place through all these years.

In November, 1878, the new organ was placed in the church at a cost of \$2800, including the old organ. The money was raised mainly by the Organ-fund Society; and the committee of purchase consisted of Mr. B. Chain, Mr. Washington T. Koplin and the Rev. Isaac Gibson.

Mr. Koplin had been organist for nearly 32 years, and for 25 years of that time he gave his services without salary, in which free service he had been preceded by Mrs. B. E. Chain and Mrs. Hannah Slemmer Pomeroy.

In 1885 the church was re-floored, re-pewed, recarpeted, and many other improvements added to the chancel at a cost of about \$4000, of which the Ladies' Guild furnished several hundred dollars. The improvement committee consisted of Mr. H. R. Brown, Mr. George D. Bolton, Mr. Geo. B. Boggs.

In 1889 land was purchased in West Norristown for the erection of All Saints' Chapel, which work was carried to completion, by Rev. John W. Kaye, the assistant minister of the parish, who had entered upon his work October 1st, 1890.

All Saints' Chapel was opened for services by the Rt. Rev. O. W. Whitaker, D. D., January 31, 1892. The building committee was Geo. B. Boggs, T. S. Adle and P. Frank Hunter.

The Rev. Mr. Kaye was made minister in charge of All Saints' Chapel immediately after its dedication, in which office he continued until June 1, 1894, at which time his voluntary resignation took effect.

During the summers of 1892 and 1893 extensive improvements were made in both the interior and exterior of St. John's church, at an outlay of nearly four thousand dollars, the church improvement committee being John D. Newhold, T. S. Adle and B. F. Solly.

In this work as in all the other improvements which have taken place in the history of the parish, the assistance of the ladies societies has been freely given, and the church officials have highly appreciated their generous cooperation. From the organization of the Ladies' Benevolent Society in 1839 to the present time the active cooperation of the ladies in their various organizations has done much to insure success.

During the fall of 1893 a mission was started in East Norristown and since then steps have been taken to secure lots for the erection of a chapel, we trust in the near future. A portion of the land has been donated by Mr. W. H. Cooke, Mr. John T. Dyer and Mr. W. F. Slingluff.

The Rev. J. Herbert Burk was called to the position of assistant minister July 27, 1894, and entered upon his work Sep. 1st following.

No history of the parish would be complete without a notice of the Sunday school, which from a very early day has been truly the nursery of the church. Many of the most devoted men and women of the church have freely given their time and talents to the work of training the young men. They deserve high commendation for the diligence and devotion which they have displayed in their work. There are at present three Sun-

day schools in active operation. St. John's, All Saints and East Norristown, and the number of members reported to the last Convention including officers and teachers, was about 600. The musical development of the parish has kept pace with the general progress. St. John's Church has been conspicuous for many years for the efficiency of the work done by her choirs, and those who seek to elevate the tone and spirit of sacred song, should be recognized as important co-workers in the building up of the Kingdom of Christ.

A number of handsome memorials have been placed in the church during the last ten years and serve to keep green the memories of those whose lives were a blessing and whose memories are an inspiration. I know of no way to honor the departed loved ones more appropriately than that of placing within the walls of the church in which they worshipped and for which they loved to work, such tokens of affection as tend to perpetuate their names and also to hearten the house of God. If this congregation should at an early day place a window in memory of the deceased Rectors of this church, it would do a most gracious thing, and add much to the sacred memories of this beloved old church.

I have been compelled to omit a great many things which it would give me pleasure to speak of, but I must content myself with this general survey of the past.

I cannot, however, conclude without referring to recent developments of parish work. The modern spirit of organization for work for Christ and his church has been felt among us, and the chapters of Brotherhood of St. Andrews, the Boys' Brigades and the Men's Bible Class, though of recent origin, are making themselves felt for good, while the Ladies' Guilds and Auxiliary, the St. Agnes Guild and the King's Daughters, the Mothers' Meeting and the Girls' Friendly Society and Sewing School are in full operation, and promise much for the advancement of all the interests of the parish. The present vestrymen are Mr. B. F. Solly, Mr. T. S. Adle, Mr. George B. Boggs, Mr. John D. Newhold, Mr. P. Frank Hunter, Mr. F. I. Naile and Mr. P. Percy Chain, the wardens being Mr. George B. Boggs and Mr. John D. Newhold; treasurer, Mr. F. I. Naile; secretary, Mr. T. S. Adle. As a vestry it is characterized by intelligent devotion to the interests of the church. I feel sure that as in the past the vestries of this church have been zealous and liberal in their efforts to secure the progress of the church, so the present vestry will not be found wanting in those qualities which secure success.

While we commemorate the past we face the future from the high vantage ground to which that past has brought us. What we are that past, under God, has made us. Though we have improved we did not create our heritage, and while we rejoice in it there is sounding in our ears all the while a deep note of pathos. The men and women who built these walls and filled these pews, and worshiped at this altar, have gone to their rest. They have passed on to a full realization of their hopes. They were our leaders in the church militant. They are also our leaders to the church triumphant. We love their memories, and we hope to join them in their fruition. Their chief virtue was their fealty to the Lord Jesus Christ. We are glad that they were our brethren according to the flesh, but we rejoice in the fact of the higher kinship of the spirit. We never saw the faces of many of them, but we love to read the long lists of their names which are written in the church records, because of their work in Christ, and because they have gone to receive his benediction, "Well done, good and faithful servants."

These have reached their goal, and we are hastening on to join them.

They have made parish history, we are still making it. What will be the writing when, during some future commemoration, the records shall be read again from this pulpit? Will it be that the members of the church in St. John's Parish have lost the spirit of their fathers? that they did not realize their high privilege and were indifferent to their God-imposed duties? that they placed society with its fashions and social claims before the church and her grand work? that they were spend-thrifts on the secular side, but parsimonious on the side of religion? that they forsook the worship of the church for the pleasure of parties and the attractions of theatres? Let us hope not. Let us pray not. Let us plead with our Lord to preserve us from this plight. Let us gird up our loins and be strong for the battle, which is at hand. We are organized for a sacred conflict, let us train for it and be active in it. We stand amid the graves of departed Saints, let us be faithful in the work which they handed down to us. If we are true to the faith once delivered to the Saints, true to the virtues exemplified by Christ and commanded in his law of love; true to our baptismal and confirmation vows, then shall we fill up the measure of Christly life and rejoice in the success of our heavenly work. Then will the future realize the hopes of the past and generations to come will call us blessed.

Letters From Rev. Mr. Maxcy and
Rev. Mr. Kaye.

CHRIST CHURCH, TROY, N. Y., Nov. 7, 1894.—Mrs. H. H. Fisher, Mrs. Henry D. Wentz, Mrs. Wm. H. Shoemaker, Mr. Walter Childs, Mr. Muscoe M. Gibson, Sec'y, Committee.

*Dear friends of St. John's Church:—*The exceedingly kind and cordial invitation which you sent on Saturday was duly received and is most deeply appreciated. Among the most delightful experiences in ministerial life is the evidence of affectionate regard which after long separation still retains its pristine vigor. That after so many years we should be remembered by any would be an occasion for grateful thought—to

be so very kindly remembered and to be the recipients of so urgent a request to be present at an anniversary abounding in sacred memories and traditions is occasion for surprise and grateful acknowledgment. As a renewed expression of feeling in consequence of a previous necessitated inclination it has enhanced meaning. It is therefore with profound regret that I am compelled to say that it is utterly beyond our power for Mrs. Maxcy and myself to be present. Very imperative duties make it necessary that I should be in Troy and Albany at the time of the anniversary in Norristown.

It is very suggestive to me to note that among the signatures to your highly prized invitation, not a single name is there which was on the communicant list when my rectorship closed. Possibly some of the matrons whose names I read there may have been among the fair maidens of the parish at that time, but the present names are strange to me. And very few, it seems to me, can there be in the parish who can remember the young man who for so brief a period was in St. John's and the recipient of so great kindness from the good people there. A sustained health which has known hardly a day's interruption has made the passing of the time so unnoticed that I can hardly realize the distance of the far off years, as in long journeys the smoothly running train makes us oblivious of the hours and miles.

But while I regretfully reply to your kind note, stating the inability to be with you next week, let me send assurance of very deep appreciation of all that is implied in the renewed invitation which you have extended. On Sunday next and on the two following days, I shall among duties here be often thinking of the parish of earlier years, and I shall keep by me on each of those days the program which happily contains not only the order of exercises but the list in which I recognize names which I gratefully recall and shall ever delight to remember.

In a record more lasting than any pages which mortal can pen, is the story of the fourscore years of dear old St. John's. No one who knows the story of the parish needs to be told that not in vain have its children labored. The tasteful edifice in its happy location, with the lovely rectory by its side, the terraced grounds, carefully kept as I recall them, the adjoining field of the departed where so many of an older day rest from their labors, all these are portions of the earthly record.

But who can tell, who but God knows, the story of the hearts which in the various experiences of life have been cheered and soothed and uplifted and strengthened through His blessing on the services and ministrations of rectors and people. The unseen and the unknown ever outreach the seen and the known in parochial as in all other history.

While we who have in various ways been identified with St. John's may devotedly thank God for all we know of its blessed past, we may well rejoice that far greater is the full story of its accomplishment. We shall know more of that in "the day after to-day." May the Lord ever have in His holy keeping the parish of so many prayers and efforts and make it a perennial fountain of blessedness.

With kindest regards, with grateful memories and with earnest prayers for the abiding Divine presence in all the future of St. John's Church,

Yours sincerely and faithfully,
EATON W. MAXCY.

No. 2539 North Sixth street, Philadelphia.
My Dear Mr. Gibson: In reply to the kind invitation of your committee to be present on Sunday, November 11th, to make an address to the Sunday Schools of St. John's parish, I would say, that my Sunday duties for the present and in the near future, make it impossible for me to accept the invitation for the day and hour named. Trusting that your anniversary will be a pleasure and a profit to concerned, I remain,

Faithfully yours,
J. W. KAYE.

From, *Times*
Norristown Pa.

Date, *Nov. 20" 1894.*

Old Landmarks Razed.

The old Green Tree Hotel, and stables adjoining, in Lower Merion township are being razed to the ground. They are old landmarks dating back to Revolutionary times and are being demolished in order to give Ruben Smith, proprietor, additional ground for the new hostelry recently erected by him. The Merion Horse Company ate the first meal partaken of in the new hotel, on November 3.

From, *Democrat*
Daylesford Pa.

Date, *Nov. 23rd 1894*

PRE-HISTORIC REMAINS.

VALUABLE FIND IN A PORT KENNEDY QUARRY.

Bones and Teeth of the Mastodon, Sloth, Tapir and Other Extinct Animals.—An Ancient Cave Uncovered by Blasting.

Almost under the shadows of the hills occupied by Washington and his army during the Winter of 1777-8, in the limestone quarry of A. B. Erwin at Port Kennedy, a valuable discovery of remains of pre-historic animals has been made recently. The relics already found are a very important contribution to scientific knowledge.

The remains are deposited in what must have been an ancient cave on the river side of what is now the quarry, and distant two or three hundred yards from the present bank of the Schuylkill. The strata of limestone were tilted in such a way as to form a kind of arch in the hillside, the space enclosed being probably twenty feet in width and extending into the hill quite a distance. The portion already unearthed is about thirty feet in length. A clear rill of water trickles through the ancient cave, having its source in another portion of the hill, and the action of water accounts for the filling up of the cave, and the covering of the relics of old time to such a depth.

This cave is directly beneath one found in 1870, in which extensive remains of ancient animal life were also found. In blasting the bed rock which formed the bottom of the old cave, there appeared under it and at a depth of perhaps forty feet from the surface of the hillside a reddish clay, and the debris of the Triassic period, mixed with broken sandstone and limestone.

The face of this bank as exposed to view and examined a day or two ago by the writer of this article, contains the fossil remains so highly prized by scientific investigators. The thoughtful owner of the quarry has left tools suitable for delving in the tough but easily broken mass, and out of it can easily be picked the animal remains and pieces of petrified wood.

The deposit which fills the ancient cave presents a peculiar appearance, the ground-work of the conglomerate being red, interspersed with sandstone, limestone, bones, animal remains, and petrified wood, almost every shade from pure white to deep black being represented as the pick slices off the face. The best success is met with near the bottom of the layer, five or six feet below what con-

stitutes the top of the cave. These materials have evidently been washed in through the course of ages.

Most of the ingredients of the deposit are soft and capable of being broken with the fingers. On exposure to the air, however, they harden. Among the animals represented in the find of bones, teeth, etc., are the sloth or megalonyx; the mastodon or ancient elephant; the tapir, long extinct here but still found in the tropical regions of South America; the pre-historic bear and several extinct species of birds. The teeth are in the best state of preservation and furnish in many cases the only means of identification, the enamel being as perfect as it was in life.

The lowest layer contains the greatest percentage of animal matter, but in so frail a condition that it is extremely difficult to preserve, much less to identify with any degree of accuracy.

Several officials of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, including Dr. Samuel G. Dixon, the curator, and his assistants, Samuel N. Rhoads and David McCadden, have visited the quarry, and the most valuable finds, so far as size and positive identification are concerned, have been removed to that institution. There are plenty of relics remaining, however, and the chance visitor who is interested in scientific research can find plenty to gratify his taste for original investigation.

It is probable that the revelations are by no means exhausted and that the removal of the tilted strata of limestone and the careful scrutiny of the red clay cave deposit at a still lower level, will show an abundance of organic remains. There is much room for speculation as to the conditions under which these were deposited. The climate was tropical in that age, as is evident from the nature of the animals, and man had not yet appeared. The river of that day, swelled by the copious tropical rains, was many times larger than at present, and it may be assumed that it rose almost to the mouth of the cave just discovered.

There have been many visitors to the quarry the past few days and the extended notoriety the newspapers will give the find promises to increase the number. Many objects of interest have been carried away by them. The petrified wood, comparatively rare in this vicinity, although very abundant on the other side of the Delaware, arouses much interest, and very fine specimens are found. Among the more curious articles displayed are the teeth of a tapir, bears' teeth and foot bones, deer horns, a tiger's tooth, bits of ivory from the tusks of the mastodon, and others difficult of identification. The remains discovered no doubt include new species and new genera not hitherto known to have existed in Pennsylvania and possibly some that are new to science.

The lowest layers yet examined contain the comminuted remains of the wild-cat, raccoon and weasel tribes, with small birds, bats, etc., the progenitors, perhaps, of modern species, and many vegetable remains, but all so thoroughly intermixed as to be scarcely distinguishable. Among the bones found are the teeth of the mastodon, round and almost perfect, nearly six inches in length; the ear-bones of the sloth, the size of a dollar; a tiger's ear-bone, much smaller; the toe of a mastodon and bird bones which must have belonged to feathered bipeds nearly as large as the ostrich of the present day.—*Norristown Herald.*

From, *Herald*

Norristown, Pa.

Date, *June 1st 1894.*

TWENTY YEARS AGO.

To Editor NORRISTOWN HERALD:

Hon. E. L. Acker, of this borough, has shown me a copy of the *Daily Register*, founded by him in this borough January 1st, 1875, just twenty years ago, about seven years after the DAILY HERALD, the announcement of whose twenty-fifth anniversary has just been very extensively noticed by the press of the country. Dr. Acker was then the proprietor of the *Norristown Register and Montgomery Democrat and Watchman*, a weekly paper published in this borough and started by James Winnard in the year 1800, about a year after the NORRISTOWN HERALD had been started by the grandfather of our townsman, Mr. F. D. Sower. On looking over the paper I find the following editorial as the reason of the starting of the paper:

THE DAILY REGISTER.—After the existence of the *Weekly Register* for nearly three-fourths of a century, we venture to present to the public this New Year's Day, 1875, the *Daily Register*, whose continued publication is now contemplated. It is hardly necessary to say why this step has been taken, for the reasons will readily present themselves to the reader. We had thought of this step heretofore, but for satisfactory reasons it was deferred. But the time has come when the step has been taken, and the little sheet is launched among the community to take its place and chances with kindred publications.

The *Weekly Register* was really founded in the year 1800 under the name of the *True Republican*, by Messrs. Wilson and Palm. But this publication did not last long. It was a very diminutive sheet, about 10 by 12 inches. Afterward, in 1801, it was again started by Mr. James Winnard, under the name of the *Weekly Register*, and was for upwards of twenty years published by him. There were during that time two papers published in the borough. The HERALD was established in June, 1799, and the *Weekly Register*, by Mr. Winnard. These were the two papers of the county for many years. The *Weekly Register*, in the course of years, had several proprietors and publishers. It was at one time published by Messrs. Patterson and Powell, then by Adam Slemmer, then again by Samuel D. Patterson, and finally Hon. John B. Sterigier became proprietor. On the 15th of February, 1853, the paper was for the first time issued under the direction of the present editor—a period now of nearly twenty-one years.

Within this time, of course, the paper as it grew in years also grew in size, and the *Weekly Register* is now among the largest sized papers in the state.

The *Daily Register* starts small in size, but by its kind reception among the people it will also grow in size until it shall become among the largest of the inland dailies. Its contemporary, the DAILY HERALD, has had for some years the start, but it hopes by energy, determination and a courage that never flags to soon be up to it in size and present to the Democrats of the borough and county a sheet not inferior to it.

The *Daily Register* of course will be strictly Democratic in politics, and will endeavor to uphold what it believes to be sound principles of politics and such as shall be promotive of the interests of the people, but its course will be at all times respectful.

It will, however, also at the same time give a large share of attention to local news and shall be an advocate of the general interests

of the town and county irrespective of party. In short, we shall endeavor to make the *Daily Register* a readable daily journal and an acceptable visitor. With this much in the way of an introductory, we commence the publication of our little daily sheet, trusting that it will receive its full share of public patronage.

The paper itself was not quite as large as the DAILY HERALD when first issued but there was not much difference in size. Among other things it stated that the State Legislature would meet at Harrisburg on the next Tuesday, and that the Legislature would be the largest that had ever assembled in Pennsylvania, being the first Legislature after the adoption of the Constitution, in 1873, the entire membership consisting of two hundred and fifty members, the same as now, the Senate consisting of fifty members and the House of Representatives of two hundred members. That our members, Messrs. Rutter, Knipe, Richardson, Yerkes and Law, leave for Harrisburg on Saturday.

The local news is interesting. Robert Iredell, Esq., Postmaster, states that the post-office will probably be removed to its new quarters in the Music Hall building during the coming week. It was expected to get in by the first of the year but this could not be done on account of the room not being ready. The weather, for several days, had been intensely cold, and making ice fast. Somebody the other day pronounced the following conundrum: "Why is the water in the Conshohocken reservoir like John O'Callowran's flea?" The answer was that when they came to look for it, it was not there. This may do in an emergency, but it strikes us as far fetched and wretched. Lieut. Jacob Geiger after a short illness died at Bridgeport. William Sassaman, J. R. Hunsicker and Henry L. Acker, had bought Dr. Albanus Logan's farm in Norriton township for \$9000, of which thirty acres were to form Norris City Cemetery.

The Norris Hose Company had been holding a fair at Odd Fellow's Hall, and Company C. National Guards, one at Meeh's Hall. Rev. W. Waller preached a sermon at First Presbyterian, subject, "Christmas Gifts." Rev. Joel T. Rossiter had received a call to the First Reformed congregation of Baltimore. At St. John's Episcopal Church the Holy Communion was administered. At St. Patrick's Church, Rev. Father Monohan, Mass was said at 5.30 o'clock. The new German Reformed Church at Collegeville, Rev. J. H. A. Bomberger, pastor, would be completed and dedicated in about three weeks. Daniel Yost, Esq., at one time a County Commissioner, narrowly escaped death from a falling tree striking him. He was 76 years of age. It copies from the Pottstown Ledger an account of some old people in the county. Mrs. Elizabeth Thomson of Norristown, was 96 years old on the 16th of November. Daniel Shaid, of Sumnytown, was 93 old on the 31st of December. Mrs. Hannah Gotwals of Worcester, was in her 95th year. Alan W. Corson, of Whitmarsh, was in the office of the *Daily Register* on Saturday night last and stated he was in his 96th year. Jacob Fitzwater was in his 89th, Adam Slemmer 84, George Shearer, Plymouth, 84; Maj. Daniel Fisher, Whitmarsh, 80; John Jenkins, North Wales, 90; Lawrence Doran, Norristown, 93. Annual meetings of Music Hall Association, Norristown Library Company, Schuylkill Valley Mutual Life Insurance Company, Stony Creek Railroad Company, Norris City Cemetery Company, and a number of public sales of real estate, as well bargains in dry goods, etc., are among the advertisements. On the first page it published a call for a meeting of the Democratic Standing Committee at the Rambo House. It also contains a defense of the contract of the

Montgomery County Almshouse, some strictures having been made in regard to it by the Board of Public Charities. It stated that the statements were inconsistent with the reports of the Grand Jury who visited the institution at every term of court. Altogether the first number of the *Daily Register* was quite a readable paper. Dr. Acker published it a little over three years and then suspended publication, but continued to publish the *Weekly Gazette* till September 13, 1879. A. B. C.

From, *Republican*
Lansdale Pa.

Date, *Nov. 28th 1891.*

LOCAL HISTORY.

The Dickinson Farm, Upper Gwynedd—The Old Shoemaker Saw Mill on the Wissahickon—George Maris—Mathias Lukens—The Lutz Family—The Helfensteins.

This farm, lying on both sides of the Wissahickon, reaches almost to the boundaries of the borough of North Wales, from which the farm buildings are about half a mile northwest. A highway, running from the Springhouse and Sumneytown turnpike northeastward, divides the property. The premises have for many years belonged to Albert Dickinson, whose house and barn are near the easterly bank of the Wissahickon, which here flows through meadow land, fringed with woodland. The old sawmill, now long disused, stood to the westward of the dwelling.

The history of this property has never been written, nor can a complete chain of title be given now. The Dickinson farm, or the greater part of it, was probably included within the original patent to Evan Hugh, who acquired 1,068 acres in 1701, and lying across the county in a narrow strip. Hugh Pugh, one of his sons, acquired this portion of his father's grant, including also the present Gordon and Beaver farms, or 307 acres in all. In 1718 this tract was sold to Cadwallader Foulke, who held it for fourteen years. In 1832 Robert Jones was the purchaser, who the same year conveyed to his son John. After the lapse of nearly a quarter of a century, came changes of ownership among speculative parties in succession. The upper portion was part of the patent of 2866 acres made to William John in 1701.

In 1755, David Cumming bought 108 acres of John Jones, who, in 1760, conveyed to George Maris.

GEORGE MARIS.

George Maris was the great grandson of George Maris, who came to this coun-

try from Worcestershire, England, in 1683, and settled in Springfield, Delaware county. He was a prominent Friend, and said to have been a preacher, filled a number of important places of public trust, being for several years a member of Assembly, Justice of the Peace and Judge of county court.

The Maris family descended from him is large, and inter-married with many others. Among his descendants is Professor George L. Maris, now at the head of the George School, Newtown. George Maris, the immigrant, died in 1705. Among his six children was George, who married Jane Medlock, and the Gwynedd George Maris was the grandson of the latter. He left several children, and some of his many descendants are persons of note. His children were William, Amos, Jesse, Jonathan, Ann, Hannah, Susanna, Rebecca and George. The father of these children was a thrifty personage, a noted speculator and dealer of his time, owning many different properties in Gwynedd for longer or shorter periods.

MATHIAS LUKENS.

In 1762, Maris sold to a more permanent owner, Mathias Lukens, who bought a plantation of 180 acres, which must have also included the present Beaver farm. The new owner is supposed to have been the son of Jan or John Lukens, who came from Holland to Pennsylvania in 1688, and afterwards bought the later Wampole farm in northern Towamencin. He died in 1744, leaving a family of children, of whom one was Mathias, born in August, 1700.

THE SAW MILL.

The saw mill was here during the ownership of Mathias Lukens, and it is supposed that he built it before the Revolution. In the assessment of his property in 1776 it is mentioned, together with 130 acres, two horses and six cows. He had previously bought in 1760 fifteen acres of Philip Richardson, and in 1761 two other lots of George Emleu adjoining, and in 1762 another lot of ten acres, all adjoining and along the present turnpike. The last will of Lukens was made March 6, 1783, and in which he ordered his executors to sell his property.

JOSEPH SHOEMAKER.

In 1786, a Quaker, named Joseph Shoemaker, bought the property, comprising 91 acres, of Joseph Lukens and John Evans, executors of Mathias Lukens. Shoemaker was a worthy citizen and left a good memory. He was a member of Gwynedd Meeting. His last will was made March 8, 1823, in which he ordered the sale of his property. His executors, Jesse Shoemaker and Isaac Jeans, sold it in 1828 to Thomas Shoemaker, who in 1830 conveyed to Emanuel Stille, a native of Germany, born in 1751.

EMANUEL STILLE.

He was a blacksmith, plying his trade earlier at Line Lexington. During the latter period of his life he had his shop opposite the Rhoads' toll-gate, and lived

in the house now owned by Jacob Schull. His death took place in 1839 at the age of 88, and he lies buried in the hilltop cemetery, of North Wales. Stille, or Stiddle, had a daughter, born in 1780, who married a Reformed preacher, Rev. Samuel Helffenstein. She died January 12, 1860.

REV. SAMUEL HELFFENSTEIN.

We first hear of Helffenstein as pastor of the Reformed church, near 4th and Race streets, Philadelphia. He was born in 1775. He built the present large house on the turnpike, where he resided and finally died, mostly renting the farm and mill to other parties. He was pastor of the Reformed congregation, worshipping in the old Yellow church, North Wales, for 17 years, or from 1826 to 1843. His death occurred October 17, 1866, at the age of 91 years. His children were Isaac, Jonathan, Albert, Benjamin, Samuel and Emanuel. Of these Samuel, Jr., also was a preacher, and also Albert. The widow of Samuel now resides in Washington City. Jonathan married a woman named Bush. His son, Samuel B. Helffenstein, was well known in this county. He was a school teacher and newspaper man, publishing the Norristown *Defender* for many years. He was an ardent Democrat, whilst the rest of his family were Republicans. He died only a few years ago in a private asylum. His uncle Albert, the preacher, died in 1870 at the age of 69. Samuel Helffenstein, Jr., died in 1869, aged 69.

JOHN LUTZ.

In 1855, Rev. Samuel Helffenstein conveyed to John Lutz, of Whitpain, the farm and mill for \$5,620. The latter was descended from a German family. His ancestor, Adam Lutz, made his appearance at Centre Square in 1760, when he bought a farm to the east of the cross roads. The death of John Lutz took

place November 3, 1861. During his ownership he had built a new saw mill. George W. Rodgers and Philip Gerhart were appointed trustees for the heirs, among whom were sons Samuel, John, Jacob, James, Charles and Thomas H. Lutz. These trustees sold the farm, then containing 69 acres, to Albert B. Dickinson, who came from a Whitmarsh family. For some time after Dickinson's purchase, the saw mill continued in operation, but gradually became disused. The large house, near the turnpike, and a lot adjoining were detached many years ago, and now belongs to S. R. Gordon.

E. M.

From, *Transcript*
Shiphaek, Pa.
Date, *Nov. 30, 1894.*

A CENTURY AND A HALF OLD.

The Sesqui-Centennial of the Old Goshenhoppen Church—Complete Program.

To-morrow (Saturday) and Sunday, December 1st and 2d, will be interesting days to the large Reformed and Lutheran membership of the Old Goshenhoppen church, above Salfordville. The 150th anniversary of the founding of that venerable church edifice will be appropriately celebrated by two days' services in which the two congregations worshipping there very properly unite. The complete program for the two days follows:

SATURDAY, DEC. 1, AT 9.30 A. M.—LUTHERAN.
Organ Voluntary
Hymn.
Reading of Scripture and Prayer, Rev. D. H. Reiter, Quakertown.
Sermon by Rev. Geo. Gebert, Tamaqua, Pa.
Hymn.
Addresses by neighboring pastors.
Benediction.

2 P. M.—REFORMED.

Invocation.
Hymn.
Scripture Lesson.
Prayer.
Hymn.
Sermon by Rev. L. K. Evans, Pottstown.
Addresses by Revs. Eli Keller, D. D., Zionsville; I. S. Stahr, Oley; J. E. Freeman, Boyertown; Thos. H. Leimbach, Spinners-town; W. B. Werner, Schwenksville.

Prayer.
Hymn.
Offerings.
Doxology.
Benediction.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 9 A. M.—REFORMED.

Invocation.
Hymn.
Anniversary Sermon, by Rev. G. B. Walbert, East Greenville.
Address by Rev. A. L. Deebant, Pennsburg.
History of the Reformed Congregation, by the Pastor.

Prayer.
Hymn.
Offerings.
Doxology.
Benediction.

1.30 P. M.—LUTHERAN.

Organ Voluntary.
Hymn of Invocation.
Parts of morning services, Church Book,
Epistle and Gospel for the day.
The Creed.
Hymn.
Sermon by Rev. G. F. Spieker, D. D., of the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Mount Airy, Pa.
Hymn.
History of the Church, by Rev. Frederick Walz, Pastor Emeritus, Sellersville.
Silver Offering.
Hymn.
Benediction.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CHURCH.

Church history in Pennsylvania would not be complete without a more or less extensive record of Old Goshenhoppen church, whose name and antiquity are known far beyond the limits of the county that contains this venerable and interesting church site and organization. This church is perhaps best and most intimately known among the Pennsylvania German speaking class, which includes nearly all of Eastern Pennsylvania, while church people generally of all denominations are more or less familiar with the ancient religious landmark.

The congregation itself was organized 162 years ago—in 1732, and the first church was erected 150 years ago—in 1744. Including the present pastors, Rev. C. R. Fetter, of Telford, and Rev. J. L. Roush, of Pennsburg, twenty-eight pastors, as far as known, presided over the two congregations from the time of the founding of the church down to the present day. The Reformed congregation had 17 and the Lutheran 11. Their names and years of pastorate follow here, classified:

REFORMED.

George Michael Weiss, 1746-'63.
Jacob Reiss, 1763-'66.
John Theobald Fraber, 1766-'79.
John William Sugold, 1779-'81.
Frederick Dellecker, 1781-'84.
Frederick William Vonder-Sloot, 1781-'86.
John Theobald Faber, 1786-'88.
Nicholas Pomp, 1789-'91.
John Theobald Faber, Jr., 1791-'1807.
J. Albert Helfenstein, 1808-'11.
Albert Zent, 6 months in 1811.
Frederick William Vonder Sloot, Jr., 1812-'14.
Jacob William Dechant, 1818-'33.
Andreas Hoffman, 1833-'56.
Robert Vancourt, 1856-'63.
Augustus L. Dechant, 1863-'94.

LUTHERAN.

John Conrad Andrea, 1743-'50.
Lucas Raus, 1751-'58.
Frederick Schulttz, 1753-'59.
John Joseph Roth, 1760-'71.
Frederick Niemeier, 1771-'72.
Conrad Roeller, 1772-'95.
Frederick Geisenbaimer, 1795-'97.
George Roeller, 1798-1840.
Engelhard Peixoto, 1841-'64.
Frederick Walz, 1865-'93.

Of the pastors named but two survive in addition to the present pastors. The two still living are Rev. A. L. Dechant (Reformed), Pennsburg, and Rev. Frederick Walz, (Lutheran), Sellersville.

From, Union
Phila. Pa.

Date, Dec. 2^d 1894.

NEWS FROM ALL OVER THE STATE

THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH
ANNIVERSARY OF A CHURCH.

EXERCISES TO CONTINUE TO-DAY

Four Murderers Sentenced at Greensburg—Plate Glass Manufacturers May Form an Organization—The Chester Police Arrest Several Members of the Salvation Army—A Company to be Formed to Generate Electricity From Culm.

SALFORDVILLE, December 1.

The celebration of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the old Goschenhoppen Church began this morning and will continue to-morrow. The church is located near this place, on the east bank of the Perkiomen creek, where the Lutheran and German Reformed congregations have worshiped in harmony for a century and a half.

The anniversary exercises this morning were in charge of the Lutheran congregation. They were opened by an organ voluntary, followed by singing and the reading of Scripture by Rev. D. H. Reiter, of Quakertown. The sermon was preached by Rev. George Gebert, of Tamaqua, Pa. Several neighboring pastors were present and made addresses.

The Reformed congregation conducted the afternoon services, Rev. L. K. Evans, of Pottstown, Pa., preaching the anniversary sermon. He was followed by talks from neighboring pastors. The services to-morrow will alternate in the same manner.

ORGANIZED 162 YEARS AGO.

The organization of this church dates back far beyond the history of Montgomery county. The congregation itself was organized 162 years ago, in 1732, and the first building was erected just 150 years ago.

Twenty-eight pastors have presided over the two congregations since the organization, and but two pastors besides the present occupants of the pulpits survive. The first building erected was used as a school house as well as a church. It was of stone, two stories high and 35 by 50 feet in dimensions. It stood until 1808.

It is related that during the early history of the church the worshipers were annoyed

more or less by the Indians, and they went to church armed, to defend themselves in case of an attack. In the corner-stone of the original building, which was torn down in 1858, two silver coins were found, one dated 1652 and the other 1695. The former was the pine-tree shilling of Massachusetts.

The present structure was completed in 1858, and is a substantial stone edifice 50 by 62 feet in size, surmounted by a spire 100 feet high. It cost over \$8,000. It will seat 800 people.

The graveyard surrounding the church is one of the oldest in the county. It contains the remains of many soldiers of the revolution, and about seventy-five people killed by powder-mill explosions in that vicinity previous to 1859.

From, *Register*
Norristown Pa.
 Date, *Dec. 3rd 1894*

GOSHENHOPPEN CHURCH

The 150th Anniversary of the
 Organization.

A TWO DAYS' CELEBRATION.

Services Held Jointly by the
 Lutheran and Reformed
 Congregations.

THE 150th anniversary of the organization of the Goshenhoppen Church, in Upper Salford township, was celebrated Saturday and yesterday. The church is owned jointly by the Lutheran and German Reformed denominations, and the organization dates back to 1732. Ever since that time the two congregations have worshipped in peace and harmony, the pastors alternating every Sabbath.

Notwithstanding the rainy weather and the almost impassable roads leading to the old church, the numerous sheds on the property were filled with carriages, the people coming from miles around to participate in the jubilee services. The two-day programme was in charge of Pastor J. L. Roush, of the Reformed denomination, and the Lutheran Pastor, Rev. C. R. Fetter. Promptly at 9.30 Saturday morning the big pipe organ opened the exercises with a voluntary. Rev. J. Becker, Pastor of Lansdale Lutheran Church, made an address of welcome and read a selection of Scripture. The

sermon was delivered by Rev. G. Gebert, of Tamaqua. Brief addresses were made by Rev. J. Becker, of Lansdale; Rev. W. Fox, of Sumneytown, and Rev. J. Welde-lich, of Sellersville.

The Reformed Congregation had charge of the afternoon services, when Rev. L. Evans, of Pottstown, preached a forcible sermon. Rev. H. Stahr, of Oley, Pa., and Rev. A. Dechant, of Pennsburg, also delivered short addresses. Thank offerings were made at both services.

On Sunday morning the Reformed Pastor again had charge of the services. Rev. George Walbert, of East Greenville, delivered an anniversary sermon, and the pastor read a carefully prepared history of the church, relating more particularly to the progress of his own people.

The closing exercises of the day were held in the afternoon and were conducted by Pastor Fetter, of the Lutheran denomination. Rev. G. Spieker, D. D., of the Theological Seminary, Mount Airy, was the orator of the occasion. The history of the church was read by Rev. F. Walz, Pastor Emeritus, of Sellersville. A jubilee hymn composed by Mr. Walz was sung on the occasion, and the gathering dispersed with a hearty hand-shaking on the part of the members and visitors. The church was handsomely decorated with flowers and plants, with appropriate mottoes.

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH.

Very soon after the early settlers arrived in the territory now included in upper Montgomery county those who held to the Lutheran and German Reformed faith sought a place for public worship and the education of their children. Across the country to the west, a distance of several miles, the New Hanover Lutheran Church, the oldest in America, had been established in 1703 by Justus Falkner, who had been ordained and sent by Andreas Rudman, the Swedish Provost at Philadelphia. Shortly after that, in 1732, the Indianfield Lutheran Church was organized, some six or eight miles to the east. Then at a point about midway between the two oldest Lutheran congregations in America, representatives of the Reformed and Lutheran faith united in the purchase of a tract of forest land in 1732, and immediately built a log schoolhouse. As neither denomination appeared able to sustain public worship alone, the two united, and have used the property in common to this day. Regular preaching service was held in the old schoolhouse on Sunday, while during the week it was used for school purposes.

The country for miles around was known as Goshenhoppen, from which the church derives its name. The tract purchased by the two denominations comprised about 38 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres, for which they paid a sum equal to \$23.34 in our present currency.

The location of the church is a beautiful one, overlooking the fertile Perkiomen Valley on the west, and surrounded by a rich farming community. As late as 50

years ago the country for miles around was a dense forest.

Preaching services were held in the old schoolhouse until 1744, when the first regular church was erected of stone. In 1751 the total membership of the two congregations was 46.

The first pastor of the Lutheran faith was Rev. Mr. Streiter, in 1743, and the first Reformed leader was Rev. George Michael Weiss, from 1746-63.

The corner-stone used in the original structure is still intact, standing alongside of the present church. It bears a Latin inscription, the translation of which is as follows:

"This house of God was erected by the liberality of the Reformed Lutheran people.—J. Conrad Andrea, 1743-50."

The school house above referred to stood until 1808, when it was demolished and another one erected in its stead, which still stands near by the present church.

The first church erected stood for 113 years, when the necessities of a growing congregation caused its removal and the building of a larger house of worship in 1858. The contents of the first corner-stone were in a good state of preservation when opened in 1858. They included silver coins of the dates of 1652 and 1695, and a pint bottle of tasteless yellow liquid, supposed to have been wine.

The building in which the services were held yesterday is a stone structure, two stories, 50x62 feet, surmounted by a spire 100 feet high. It will seat about 500 people.

The graveyard surrounding the church covers about five acres, and is one of the largest church burying grounds in the county. Several revolutionary soldiers are buried therein, as well as about 75 persons who lost their lives in powder mill explosions which occurred in the vicinity at various times in the past.

The church record shows that in 1760 a number of slaves were baptised and confirmed as members of the church.

Rev. Doctor Krauth, the first President of the Pennsylvania College at Gettysburg, was baptised in this church. The present membership is about 350 Lutheran and 250 Reformed.

The names of the various pastors of the church and the years in which they served their congregations are as follows:

Lutheran—Rev.—Streiter, 1743; J. Conrad Andrea, 1743-50; Sencas Raus, 1751-58; J. Joseph Roth, 1758-67; Frederick Niemeier, 1771-72; Conrad Roeller, 1772-99; Frederick Gelsenheimer, 1799-1800; Geo. Roeller, 1800-40; Engelbert Peixoto, 1841-64; Frederick Walz, 1865-93; C. R. Fetter, present pastor.

German Reformed—Rev. George Michael Weiss, 1746-63; Jacob Reiss, 1763-66; John Thebald Faber, 1766-79; John Wm. Ingold, 1779-81; Frederick Dellecker, 1781-84; Frederick W. Vondersloot, 1784-86; John Thebald Faber, 1786-89; Nicholas Pomp, 1789-91; John Thebald Faber, Jr., 1791-1807; J. Albert Helffenstein.

1808-1811; Albert Zent, six months in 1811; Frederick W. Vondersloot, Jr., 1812-18; Jacob Wm. Dechant, 1818-33; Andreas Hoffman, 1833-56; Robt. Vancourt, 1856-63, Augustus L. Dechant, 1863-94.

From,

Sellersville Pa.

Date, Dec. 6, 1894.

1744. OLD GOSHENHOPPEN. 1894.

The 150th anniversary of the organization of the Old Goshenhoppin Church, in Upper Salford township, Montgomery county, was celebrated on Saturday and Sunday. The church is owned jointly by the Lutheran and German Reformed denominations, and the organization dates back to 1732. Ever since that time the two congregations have worshipped in peace and harmony, the Pastors alternating every Sabbath.

Notwithstanding the rainy weather and the almost impassable roads leading to the old church, the numerous sheds on the property were filled with carriages, the people coming from miles around to participate in the jubilee services. The two-day programme was in charge of Pastor J. L. Roush, of the Reformed denomination, and the Lutheran Pastor, Rev. C. R. Fetter. Promptly at 9.30 Saturday morning the big pipe organ opened the exercises with a voluntary. Rev. J. L. Becker, Pastor of the Lansdale Lutheran Church, made an address of welcome and read a selection of Scripture. The sermon was delivered by Rev. George Gebert, of Tamaqua, Pa. Brief addresses were made by Rev. J. L. Becker, of Lansdale; Rev. W. B. Fox, of Sumneytown, and Rev. J. H. Waidelich, of Sellersville.

The Reformed Congregation had charge of the afternoon services, when Rev. L. K. Evans, of Pottstown, preached a forcible sermon. Rev. I. S. Stahr, of Oley, and Rev. A. L. Dechant, of Pennsylvania, also delivered short addresses. Thank offerings were made at both services.

On Sunday morning the Reformed Pastor again had charge of the services. Rev. George B. Walbert, of East Greenville, delivered an anniversary sermon, and the Pastor read a carefully prepared history of the Church, relating more particularly to

the progress of his own people. The history will be published in the ITEM next week; it came too late for this week.

The closing exercises of the day were held in the afternoon and were conducted by Pastor Fetter, of the Lutheran denomination. Rev. G. F. Spieker, D. D., of the Theological Seminary, Mount Airy, was the orator of the occasion. The history of the church was read by Rev. F. Walz, Pastor Emeritus, of Sellersville. A jubilee hymn composed by Mr. Walz was sung on the occasion. The church was handsomely decorated with flowers and plants, with appropriate mottoes.

A SKETCH OF THE HISTORY OF THE OLD GOSHENHOPPEN LUTHERAN CONGREGATION AND CHURCH.

BY REV. F. WALZ.

The first beginning took place about 12 years previous to the erection of the first church in 1744. An organization of small Reformed and Lutheran congregations existed in the woods of this neighborhood as early as 1732. The Lutheran congregation desirous to have a suitable place of worship resolved to send Johann Michael Reiher to the land office in Philadelphia to secure a warrant on this tract of land. A member of the Reformed congregation accompanied him to make the application jointly.

But the deed was not forthcoming until Jan. 26th, 1737. This remarkable document is written on parchment and signed by the three sons of William Penn, to wit: John, Thomas and Richard, and the purchase sum for 38¼ acres was £8, 9s, 3s all expenses included. The congregations had already erected a small log building for school and church purposes, and laid out a graveyard on the hillside. A wall was built around it outside of which a separate place was given for suicides. This small building was afterwards enlarged and is kept in tolerable repair until this day.

In the year 1744 a meeting was held by both congregations to consider the advisability to build a church and unanimously resolved "to erect a nice big stone building." The corner stone is put up in this church yard. It has an inscription in the Latin language but in a decayed condition signifying that the church was built by the liberality of the people. A document was laid into the corner stone containing the rights and duties of the respective congregations. This was as far as I can ascertain, the first so called Union church built in Pennsylvania. Each congregation had to pay half of all expenses. As money was very scarce at that time among the first settlers in this wilderness it was a sign of their faithful hearts when they started this praiseworthy undertaking. Labor and material was almost all they could afford to offer. So it happened that they could not finish the building when it was under roof. They were thankful, however to have a place where they could gather to hear the gospel within the rough walls and without regular seats, altar, pulpit and floor, even the windows were wanting.

But after four years, in 1748, when they had somewhat recovered, they made a new effort to finish the house of God. The gallery and seats were furnished by contract by a carpenter for the sum of £15, painting included. But now they had an immense debt of £30. They despaired of their ability to get rid of the big sum, so they resolved to look for help from abroad by sending a collecting committee of two to New York and New Jersey to solicit funds. But the result was inadequate to their expectations consisting of £11, 8s, 9d, hardly enough to cover the expenses. They had to rely on their own resources and help themselves. And in fact they were successful and about 100 years later the Lutheran congrega-

tion had about \$6000 funds at its disposal, after having indulged in the luxury to buy a small pipe organ. This they used for many years until they had a chance to get a larger one from Sassaman's church for a reasonable price. The old one was sold to Daniel Nase and erected in the church at Uniontown, Dauphin county, about the year 1848. Now it is in the first Lutheran church at Tamagna. Soon afterward the stone house alongside the church was built as a residence for the school teacher and organist. It was occupied by Aaron K. Bernd about 30 years.

In 1844 the congregation celebrated the centennial jubilee of the erection of the church in a becoming manner. Pastor Peixoto, then minister of this congregation, was assisted on that occasion by Rev. Vogelbach, the former preaching the main sermon.

In 1857 when the congregation had outgrown the church they held a meeting and passed a resolution to build a larger and more commodious edifice with steeple and bell on it. Charles Gabel and George Daub were elected to superintend the work to be 45x65 feet in dimensions. The work was done by Mr. Schneider from Philadelphia, by contract for the sum of \$5000 besides the material of the old building. The solemnity of the laying of the corner stone took place on Saturday and Sunday May 15th and 16th, 1858. Rev. Peixoto was assisted on that occasion by Revs. Wendt, Grahn and Dr. W. J. Mann, the latter performing the ceremony. The dedication followed.

In 1890, when the organ was in a bad condition it was resolved to get a new and large one. It was built by Charles Durner in Quakertown for the sum of \$1800. The old instrument was sold to Rev. Faltich, who took it to Ohio.

The burial ground was extended about two acres about 28 years ago and the addition laid out in convenient family lots to be sold on reasonable terms to family heads or individuals. This enterprise has proven a wise and profitable financial operation and at the same time satisfactory to those who wish to have their own family lots and improve them to their own taste. Some four years ago it was decided to add the whole field on the road to the cemetery on the same principle and conditions and erect an iron fence along the road which is now in process of completion. Several years ago the sum of \$1000 was raised by the two congregations. The interests of which are to be used for the extension and keeping in order the whole burying ground.

The oldest grave stone has the inscription 1738.

For about a century the divine services were held every three weeks on each part. In 1872 it was changed to every two weeks. Kinderlehre or catechetical instruction was carefully attended to by the pastor during the summer months previous to the regular services until the Sunday school was introduced about the year 1882. English service was introduced about 1843 every six weeks.

The so-called Gemeinschaftliche or union hymn book was used by both congregations until 1881, when the "Kirchenbuch" (church book) was introduced. This congregation was received into the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Pennsylvania and adjacent states in the year 1751.

Though the congregation has never adopted a regular constitution it was not without a certain tradition in harmony with the constitution recommended by the Synod. It has 6 elders, 4 deacons, regular meetings to transact business, regular ordained ministers, catechetical instructions, services and communion. They tried to raise their apportionment for the institutions and operations of the Synod. Even cases of church discipline are not unknown.

This much about the property, church buildings and congregation.

In the following chapter I would turn your attention to the different pastors who occupied the pulpit of the church from the very beginning until the present time.

The only reliable resources of information in this matter are the church records of the

congregation and the "Halle'schen Nachrichten," the former dates from 1751, the latter from 1742. The time from 1732-42 involved into impenetrable darkness and there is absolute no ray of light whether the congregation had a minister at all or who he was. But it is certain that a school teacher acted as pastor in

Indianfield and Old Goshenhoppen in 1743. He was never ordained and lived in discord with the congregation. His name was Streiter and he was a "Streiter." When he had left in the same year Muhlenberg brought a young man by the name of Tobias Wagner, who looked for a charge, but they did not like his gifts and manners.

In the latter part of the same year Rev. Conrad Andrea was elected pastor by the Indianfield, Old Goshenhoppen and New Goshenhoppen congregations. He was pastor at Zweibrücken in Palestine, but for some reason was suspended by the consistory, and sought refuge in Pennsylvania. He was anxious to seek fellowship with Muhlenberg at Trappe, but in vain, because he was found unfit for the holy office in Germany. Yet he was a learned man and was received with open arms in these congregations. So anxious were they to secure his service that they made a contract with him for his lifetime. But they had soon reason to regret it, since he came in conflict with the moral and civil law and was consequently twice arrested. Besides he had meddled in the medical profession. Several of his cases proved fatal the patients swelling and some even bursting by the effects of his medicine. This caused great dissatisfaction on the part of his congregations. The people would not go to church and refused to pay their dues to raise his salary, but they were bound to pay it. The congregations were on the very brink of ruin. What was to be done? Finally they paid him a round sum for his resignation in 1750. He moved to Germantown and made immense trouble in the Lutheran church at that place where he died on January 1st, 1854, but not the death of a righteous man. This man did great harm to the cause of the Lutheran church in this country.

Meanwhile Muhlenberg and his faithful co-laborers had made headway in spite of the many difficulties. They had organized the Lutheran Synod of Pennsylvania and adjacent states in 1748. In 1750 this congregation and that at Indianfield send each two delegates to the Synod to apply for reception into that body, which was granted at the meeting in 1751. About the same time candidate Lucas Rauss from Slebenbergen in Hungary had arrived in Pennsylvania. He had studied in several Universities in Germany and was prepared to enter the ministry. He was licensed and recommended to these congregations to which Tobickon was added to form a pastoral charge. In November 1751 Muhlenberg administered the Lord's Supper to this congregation. Lucas Rauss was ordained at Trappe on November 5th, 1752. He has done a good work here mainly by arranging of the of the church Record in 1751. The most interesting and palustaking part is the list of the members of the congregation. For each family was a special place. Above, the head of the family, than his wife and children, their names, time and place of their birth, time of immigration. At that time (1751) this congregation consisted of the following heads of families to wit: John Michael Reiher, John Philip Gabel, Conrad Schnider, John Martin Deer, Elias Lang, Joseph William Daub, Isaac Klein, George Weigle, Rilian Gaukler, John Leo Derghelmer, John Christoph Bleckel, Ludwig Adam Bickel, John Isaac Fillman, Philip Fillman, John George Wagner, George Martin Wagner, Andreas Bayer, John H. Bayer, Mathias Walther, Valentine Nungesser, George H. Wieder, George Michael Warmkessel, Leo Schneider, Peter Schwenk, Mathias Kubler. In the year 1751 Rauss was sent by Muhlenberg up to Rheinbeck on the Hudson river to supply the charge of Rev. Hardwig for the space of 6 months, while the latter had to attend to this parish and to assist Rev. Brunholz in Philadelphia. Rauss was not quite regular in meeting his appointments and sometimes offensively gross to his parishioners. For this reason he had estranged the people in Tobickon and Indianfield so that he thought it advisable to resign these

congregations in the year 1753, while he continued his office in Old Goshenhoppen until March 3d, 1758, when he moved to York, Pa.

Immediately after his withdrawal, without knowledge of the officers of Synod, another minister took charge of this congregation introducing himself in the church book by this Latin sentence: "In Nomine Domini fiat initium meum inscribendum, i. e." "Let the beginning of my entries be in the name of the Lord." This man was doubtless John Joseph Roth. He was a Catholic student from Westphalia and an associate of Conrad Andreas. He was an independent preacher ordained by Andreas and never a member of the Synod. It appears from the church book that he continued his work here until 1767.

After Roth's withdrawal there is so many changes in the handwriting that I think it doubtful whether a regular minister attended to the wants of the congregation and it is more probable that the congregation shifted with supplies until 1771. In the account of the treasurer is an item of £1, 11s, for the removal of the furniture of Rev. Niemeyer and \$4 for his sledge. But from that time his name disappeared from the surface of the history.

From the year 1772 a brighter future seems to dawn for the congregation, a new era opens. Stability and prosperity join hands. The temporarily dissolved pastoral district, organized by the Synod in 1751 was restored under the able pastor Conrad Roeller in 1772 and remained unchanged until this day. Rev. Roeller had studied in Erlangen, Germany, and was assistant of Rev. Gehrock in New York for a short time. He took charge of this Parish about July 1772 and remained pastor until his death in June 1799. He was buried under the altar in the Indianfield church. Dr. Muhlenberg said of him "That by his Christian conduct he was an ornament to the teachings of Christ and enjoyed the love and high regard of all Christian men." It was generally expected that his son George Roeller should become his successor. But he had not finished his course of studies under Rev. Geissenhainer at Trappe, when his father died. Matters were now so arranged that Rev. Geissenhainer supplied this Parish from July 1799 to February 1800 when George Roeller was licensed and took charge of it.

At various times he supplied other congregations besides such as Saucon, Charlestown, Ridge Valley and others. This pastorate covers the time of 40 years. He was buried in the shadow of the Indianfield church between his first and second wives. His grave is covered with a large marble memorial slab with proper inscriptions. His son Rev. Isaac Roeller pastor in Berks county was requested to become his father's successor, but he refused because he had no just reason for a change.

Rev. Engelbert Peixoto was than elected and called to become the successor of George Roeller, and took charge of the Parish April 1st, 1841. He was a learned and faithful divine. He remained until April 1864. He resigned on account of some difficulties arising from the high politics at that war time. He moved to his house at Trappe, did for some time missionary work in the neighborhood and died as pastor of the Lutheran congregation in Manayunk about 1871.

In the fall of 1864 Rev. F. Waltz was unanimously elected as Peixoto's successor and entered the field of labor on January 1st, 1865. He was solemnly installed in the Indianfield church by the order of the president of the first conference by Rev. G. A. Struntz. His pastorate covers 28 years and 3 months. He resigned especially on account of a defective faculty of hearing and old age (72 years). In consideration of his long and efficient pastorate he was granted the position of pastor emeritus. He preached his farewell sermon in Tobickon church on Easter Sunday, April 2d, 1893, and had the satisfaction at the same time to install Rev. C. R. Fetter as his successor having been elected and called by the congregations.

This sketch of the history of the Old Goshenhoppen church was written by request of the pastor and vestry of that congregation and read in German by Rev. F. Waltz at the 150th anniversary and jubilee of the erection of the first church here on December 2d, 1894.

From, *Republican*
Leansdale Pa.

Date, *Dec. 12th 1894*

LOCAL HISTORY.

The Heckler Farm, Towamencin—The Old Kulp Place—The Dresher Plantation in Colonial Times.

The present small farm of Israel D. Heckler is only a fragment of a much larger plantation in Colonial time, then comprising 138 acres. The situation of the old stone house on a meadow bank by a spring, and at a distance from the highway, was characteristic of the sites chosen by the first settlers. The barn is on the summit of the slope, at the terminus of a lane, leading northeast for a few hundred yards to the turnpike, at a point over a mile southeast from Kulpville. The house is built in two parts, of which the western end is of unknown antiquity. The eastern part was built soon after 1820 by Jacob Kulp, succeeding an earlier log kitchen. In earlier times the property included the Landes farm, that of David Kulp and also extended northwest to the cross road.

To go back to the beginning, in 1688, Penn's Commissioners of Property granted the south part of Towamencin, comprising 490 acres, to James Peters. This was a piece more than a mile in length by two-thirds of a mile in width. It fronted for 220 perches upon the present turnpike above the Gwynedd line. In 1716, his son, Edward Peters, inherited this wild track and who, in 1723, conveyed the whole to three parties, Nicholas Leshner, Sr., Nicholas Leshner, Jr., and Jacob Hill. The share of the latter was 189 acres on the northeast side, and of which he sold 55 acres to Christian Weber, a Hollander in 1728. The remaining 134 acres Hill conveyed to two Schwenkfelters, George Dresher and David Seipt, in 1735.

GEORGE DRESHER.

Dresher may be said to have been the first settler here, and ten years later Seipt released his share to him. The Dresher family lived here for nearly forty years afterwards, and Dresher died March 3, 1774, leaving children, Christopher, Maria and Rosina. Meanwhile, in 1752, he had sold his plantation to his son Christopher, who had been born in Europe in 1720. Coming to this country with his father, in 1734, he married Anna Kriebel in 1744. His life-time was wholly within the Colonial period, as he died August 2d, 1770, at the age fifty, leaving children, George,

Rosina, Abraham, Susanna and Maria, born between 1746 to 1757.

CHRISTOPHER MESCHTER.

The property passed from the Dresher family in 1771, when the widow and heirs sold 111 acres to another Schwenkfeltter named Christopher Meschter, who was the owner during the Revolution. In 1776, he was assessed for 100 acres, two horses, and six cows. He was enrolled in Capt. Springer's company of militia in 1775 but there is no probability that he saw any military service. He was the son of Melchoir Meschter, the immigrant, and born in America in 1743. In 1773 he married Rosina Kriebel and died in 1797, leaving sons Christopher, Jeremiah and David.

Meanwhile, the Dresher heirs had retained a small tract of 23 acres, which they sold in 1772 to Christian Weber. It was a narrow strip, now forming a part of the Landes estate on the southeast side.

After the Revolution came severe changes of ownership. The Schwenkfelters had been possessors for half a century, when in 1784, Meschter sold to Daniel Sehanibaugh. The latter was but a temporary owner. After the period of five years he sold to Daniel Price, who staid but four years, when in 1793 he conveyed 91 acres to Christian Weber, his neighbor on the southeast side. The latter added 41 acres to his own farm, and then the same year sold the fifty acres remaining to Samuel Whistler for £400. Whistler staid here his life-time. Death came to him in 1819, and in February following the farm was sold at public sale for \$49.50 per acre to Andrew Anders. The latter retained twenty acres and the same year sold the remnant of the much despoiled plantation to Jacob Kulp. Kulp also came to stay a life-time, which ended in 1845. His son Silas was the heir to the same. A span of thirty-four years and on October 20, 1879, Silas Kulp ended his life. He left one child, Elizabeth Ann, who married John H. Snyder, now a well known farmer living in the township, a mile to the northeast. In 1882, Snyder and wife sold to Valentine S. Ziegler. The latter removed to Lower Salford, and in 1886 sold for \$3250, the thirty acres to Israel D. Heckler, the present owner. Ziegler afterwards kept the Lederachville hotel and is now blacksmithing at West Point.

Silas Kulp was a stout man. His death was from heart disease and occurred suddenly on the hill above Towamencin creamery, whilst in company of others in chasing a rabid dog. His brother, David Kulp, resides on the northeast side of the turnpike, opposite the former residence of his father, Jacob Kulp, who had a turner shop near his dwelling. E. M.

From, *Record*
North Wales Pa
 Date, *Nov. 24 1894*

THE OLDEST JUSTICE OF THE PEACE IN PENNSYLVANIA.

A BRIEF SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF 'SQUIRE
 I. W. WAMPOLE, OF NORTH WALES.

North Wales enjoys the distinction, among other matters, of having within its limits the oldest Justice of the Peace, and the longest in continuous service, in this county—'Squire I. W. Wampole. And we have not heard the assertion that he is the oldest in the State disputed. So busy has been his seventy-seven years of life; so important the many trusts he has discharged with fidelity, and so manifold his acts oftentimes more than kind in his judicial capacity that we have made an effort to describe them. His term of office expires next spring, and we hope that North Wales voters will make it possible for him to succeed himself by a handsome majority.

'Squire Wampole was born a farmer in Towamensing on June 23rd, 1817, his father, Frederick Wampole, being for twenty years a director in the Montgomery National Bank, of Norristown. The old homestead contained 137 acres, part of which—30 acres—was woodland. Here young Isaac went to school four months each winter, until he was sixteen years of age, in Towamensing and Lower Salford townships. He went eight winters to Thomas White at the Mennonite Meeting House and years afterward was one of three former pupils who bore the old man to his last resting place. In 1838-'39 he, himself, taught fifty pupils one term in the old Mennonite Meeting House.

'Squire Wampole was married in 1839 to Mary Yocum, now deceased, the daughter of a well-known drover of that part of the country, who, returning from a purchasing trip to Ohio, became sick and died at Shippensburg, Pa. Six children were born to them—Emily, prominent in Methodist and W. C. T. U. work in North Wales; Sarah—grandmother of J. L. Oberholtzer, the Lansdale baker—who died in 1864; Mary Ann, wife of Abram A. Delp, of Lansdale; William, who died August 3, 1887, for many years a dentist in North Wales; Isaac, who has been employed in the North Wales Steam Mills for twenty-seven years past; Harvey, a graduate of the composing department of the RECORD office, subsequently editor of the Malvern (Chester county) *Item*, and who was last heard of in Georgia, where it is supposed he died.

At eighteen years of age 'Squire Wam-

pole assumed charge of the large Towamensing farm, and when twenty-three years of age, in 1840, was almost unanimously elected Justice of the Peace of his native township, receiving all but sixteen of the 200 votes cast, and might have received them all, if he had "treated" some of the loungers who requested it. He and George Lukens were pioneers in enforcing, in the township, their principles against indulgence in intoxicants in the harvest field. But, almost invariably as was the custom, the non-observance on the Wampole farm lost the proprietor no friends, and his "huskings" were the most successful social events of the season, one especially, attended by men engaged in making the Springhouse and Sumneytown turnpike, and who so thoroughly enjoyed themselves that another frolic was held the following evening, being long remembered. In 1841 our subject was still farming in Towamensing and continued in such vocation until 1858, when he removed to the steam mill at Mainland, which he conducted for nine years. Previous to this he had been elected Superintendent of the Union Brick or Christ church Sunday school, a position he filled for twenty-seven years. At Mainland he declined the nomination for Justice of the Peace, but was much in demand as a clerk at sales, having officiated at as high as six in a single week. He did the conveyancing for four townships while a miller. As an executor, administrator and assignee he established a reputation for honesty and despatch, and was guardian of the Rev. Jacob F. Wampole, now of Shamokin, his brother and sister and many others, among them Isaac H. Snyder, of Upper Gwynedd, and his two sisters, and was also the trustee of Jacob Harr, of Hatfield; Ann McGlathery, of Whitpain, and Mrs. Swank, of Philadelphia—the mother of the late Mathias Swank, of North Wales. He was the assignee of John Lederach, of Lederachville, who held an eight-days' sale of store goods and real estate in 1850, and of Jacob O. Ziegler, of Lederachville, who in 1854 held a six days' sale of merchandise and real estate.

Previous to his removal to Mainland, 'Squire Wampole was asked by William Slingluff, of the Montgomery Bank, to resign his commission and succeed his father as a director in that bank, but he decided not to do so. He was a manager and treasurer of the Springhouse and Sumneytown Turnpike Company, from the building of the road, in 1847, until 1853, and was also a manager and treasurer of the Montgomery County Mutual Fire Insurance Company for many years previous to engaging in milling at Mainland. 'Squire Wampole distinctly remembers going to Philadelphia markets by wagon, and doubts if, previous to the piking, there was a worse road in the county than the now turnpike at the corner of Main and School streets, North Wales. He was a guest, on his trips, of the Sorrel Horse, Philadelphia, until Abel Lukens went to the city, when he

enjoyed his hospitality. He remembers, as Judge of Elections, being compelled to take the returns of a spring election to Norristown through snow-drifts higher than his head when on horseback. These drifts were generally in the vicinity of Centre Square.

April, 1867, saw 'Squire Wampole and his family residents of North Wales, where he had purchased from Michael Cramer his present home at the corner of Second and Walnut streets. He was engaged in the sale of real estate, in connection with conveyancing, from 1868 until November, 1873, when the North Penn. Fire Insurance Company, and the North Wales Mutual Live Stock Insurance Company both of North Wales, were organized, and he was elected secretaries of the companies, and, having little time to devote to real estate business, ceased to actively prosecute that vocation. As a real estate agent, he sold the Main Street Hotel, North Wales, to David Jones for \$14,250; what is now the "Idylwilde," first to John Comly, of Springfield, for \$6,000, and then to Mrs. Mary Ray, of West Philadelphia, for the same figures; the Holt farm of 42 acres, adjoining North Wales, to the same for \$5,500; the mill of the late George Schall, to George Schlotterer, \$9,000; the farm of the late Henry Hallman to the Lutz brothers, \$11,000, and then to Abraham Kriebel, Jr., for a little more than these figures; Dr. John N. Jacobs' hotel at Kulpville, to Justus Scheetz for \$4,600; and a number of other properties in North Wales and vicinity.

In 1876 he was elected school director of North Wales for an unexpired term of one year, and broke the first ground for the new school house, on School street. He also served a three years' term from 1877. In 1869, the date of the incorporation of North Wales, he was elected Justice of the Peace—a position he has held continuously for the past twenty-five years—and Clerk of Council. The 'Squire writes an elegant old-fashioned hand, and his minutes of Council, and his deeds, and other manuscripts are models of neatness and legibility. In 1845, '46, '57, '60 and '66 he made trips to the West for speculation, and the inspection of five farms possessed by him in Wisconsin—three of 160 acres each, one of eighty acres, and one of eighty-two acres. It was while on the '66 trip that he was stopping in Sterling, Ill., with John Kline, a Montgomery countian, and was taking a stroll around the town, that the sign of "George Hagey, jeweler," met his eyes. "Could this be George Hagey, of Trappe, who went West years before?" thought the 'Squire. Upon investigation it proved to be he, and the two old friends, made known to each other by the merest accident, spent hours in each other's company.

In 1848 'Squire Wampole became a member of the North Wales I. O. O. F., and has went through all the "chairs"

and held many high offices in the society. He also became a member of the American Mechanics of Montgomery Square, in 1848, continuing membership with that body during its location in Kulpville, and also at Lansdale, where it now holds its meetings. From 1848 until 1867, he was the orders' financial secretary.

During forty years' services as a Justice of the Peace, 'Squire Wampole has decided 3,500 cases, only twenty of which were appealed to the Montgomery county Court. In neighborhood quarrels, he had a little trick that always served well its purpose, peace—telling the contestants he was "too busy to-day; come around to-morrow and ventilate your troubles." This invariably had the desired effect, and disputants would settle their differences among themselves, or content each other with "not speaking as they passed by." One of the most important cases that ever appeared before him was Commonwealth vs. John King, of Skippackville, who was remanded to Court, where he received a sentence of seven years for stealing merchandise and money from merchants and others in that section of the county. While in jail his conscience smote him, and he told where his stealings were to be found—in tree stumps and bushes. Sure enough there they were, and the investigators also found a ham, said to belong to the father of James Allebach, now of North Wales, but which he refused to own, for fear he would have to prosecute the thief.

From, *Republican*
Lansdale Pa.
Date, *Dec 26/1894*

LOCAL HISTORY.

The Thomas Saw Mill on the Wissahickon—
The Dannehower Family.

The saw mill now owned by Allan Thomas on the Wissahickon is about one-fourth of a mile eastward of West Point. For ten years past it has done a flourishing business in the manufacture of lumber, the raw material for which has been obtained from a circuit of several miles. It is now the first saw mill in the stream, and we believe, the only one on its whole course. Attached to the mill and dwelling there remains fourteen acres, a fragment of former farm ten times as large. The remaining tract is of irregular shape, bordering the brook and raceway, a portion under tillage. The race course runs close to the West Point turnpike drawing

the water from a dam several hundred yards to the northeast. The mill has been remodelled, enlarged and much improved by the present owner.

It is not certainly known when a saw mill was built here, but it is supposed to be as old as this century and that the first sawyer was Henry Dannehower. Formerly the property included quite a plantation, comprising also the farms of Asher Webster, George Dannehower, Joseph Boorse, and some lots.

In the beginning of the white settlement of Gwynedd this was the lower edge of the great grant of 2866 acres assigned to William John about 1701, who had the whole upper third of Gwynedd. He built the present Dannehower farm house in 1714. His son John and widow Jane fell heir to his unsold lands, amounting to 1400 acres, which were sooner or later sold to settlers in small tracts. It is not known when John Jones disposed of this portion of his inheritance, but it was after 1728. In 1728 one David Cumming bought 141 acres, including this mill site. In 1762 the first of the Dannehowers made his appearance in gwynedd in the person of Abraham Dannehower, who bought the plantation of Cumming. He was the owner during the Revolution, and in 1817, his name is on the list of elders of the Old Yellow Luthern church, North Wales. His death occurred in 1789. In the following year his heirs, comprising Abraham Dannehower, Henry Dannehower, John Dannehower, Catharine, wife of Jacob Schneider, Elizabeth, wife of Philip Hurst, and Sarah, wife of Philip Fetterman sold to their brother Henry. Hurst lived on a farm in the present borough of North Wales, his house being on the site of Gold's hotel. He was born in 1760 and died in 1825.

Henry Dannehower had been born in 1763. For his 135 acres he paid £330. He built the saw mill at this point where there was ample fall to the stream. His life was extended to 75 years, or to July 12, 1838. He had a son Henry S. and one named John. The former obtained his father's homestead, which is now owned by George Dannehower, formerly an auctioneer. The other son John, born in 1802, obtained the mill and the Webster farm in 1831. He had three daughters, of whom the two oldest were familiar with the sawyer's work, could roll the logs and tend the mill right readily in their father's absence. One of these daughters married Frank Baker, formerly of Lansdale. The second married George W. Hallman and the youngest to James W. Bisson.

Hallman obtained the saw mill property of his father-in-law in 1864. This he sold to Henry S. Rosenberger in 1865 together with the farm. The latter was detached in 1866 by its sale to Asher Webster. The present owner, Allen Thomas, purchased of Jonathan Lukens in 1884. His son, Lukens Thomas, is assistant in the mill, whilst another son is a well known citizen of Lansdale, Arthur K. Thomas, publisher of the *Ambler Gazette*.

John Dannehower removed to Kulpsville in 1864, where he died from the effects of an accident April 23, 1870, at the age of sixty-eight. Abraham, another brother, removed to Montgomery township in 1821, where died at an advanced age.

Abraham Dannehower, the American ancestor of this family, was born in Germany. September 27, 1725. He came to America between 1740 and 1750. He was buried at St. John's church, Whitpain, his death taking place May 9, 1789. Another of his sons, George, lies in the same yard, his death taking place July 1st, 1793, in his 45th year. His son Abraham, Jr., bought a farm in Eastern Gwynedd in 1779, situated near the Bethlehem road, a mile north of the Springhouse. This contained eighty-three acres, part of an original grant of 578 acres from Penn to John Humphrey. There he built a house the same year, which is yet standing, bearing the date mark of 1779 and which is yet in the possession of his descendants.

E. M.

From, *Republican*
Lansdale Pa.
Date, *Dec. 26" 1894.*

THE ELECTION OF 1836.

Montgomery Politics in the Early '30's.—The County at That Time Heavily Democratic.

This was a Democratic year, and Martin Van Buren was chosen President. The reaction against Jacksonism did not reach its full force till 1840. At the October election Montgomery went heavily Democratic. Jacob Fry the Democratic candidate for Congress, received 3194 votes to 1963 for Daniel H. Mulvany, a Norristown lawyer. There were then only 21 voting districts, of which, Worcester, Towamencin, Perkiomen, Horsesham, Hatfield and Harleysville only were carried by the Whigs or Anti-Masonic party. The vote of Towamencin was only 13 for Fry to 77 for Mulvany. Hatfield gave 49 for Fry to 58 for his opponent.

For Senator, Henry Meyers and Samuel Anderson were the candidates. Meyers got 3174 and Anderson 1992.

John Shager was chosen Commissioner over William Brooke, and Jacob Yost, Henry Longaker and Samuel E. Lesch were sent to the Assembly.

Chester county then gave only about 30 majority against the Democracy, and Delaware county was similarly close.

At the succeeding Presidential election in November a heavier vote was cast, of which VanBuren received 3440 and William H. Harrison 2409. Towamencin gave

ly 14 votes for VanBuren out of 111 cast. Bucks county was much closer, giving Harrison 3289, and VanBuren but 3080. Chester county gave Harrison 645 majority and Lancaster 2106. Berks piled up 3384 for VanBuren. The total vote of the State was 91,275 for VanBuren and 86,976 for Harrison.

THE ELECTION OF 1835.

At this election Joseph Reitner, Whig and Anti-masonic, was chosen Governor. There were two Democratic candidates George Wolf and Henry A. Muhlenberg. In Montgomery county, Ritner had 3614; Wolf 1747 and Muhlenberg 1599. Towamencin only gave 3 votes for Wolf, 11 for Muhlenberg and 118 for Ritner. That year the Democrats lost their county ticket. James Paul was elected to the Senate, over two opponents, John B. Sterigere and Tobias Sellers. Jacob Fretz was chosen Commissioner, and Jonathan Adamson, Director, over Peter Hoxworth and Samuel Leech. Hoxworth lived in Hatfield. In the whole State, the vote was Ritner 94,111, Wolf 65,732, Muhlenberg 40,418. Bucks county gave Ritner a plurality of 1007 over Wolf.

From, *Republican*
Phoenixville Pa.

Date, *Jan. 1st 1895*

A "CHRISTENING PAPER."

Such as Was Used by the German Settlers of Montgomery County.

Mr. George Garey, of Port Providence, has in his possession a relic which is of much interest to historians generally, and of particular interest to him, it being the "Christening paper" of his wife's ancestor.

The document is very peculiar in appearance, it being not unlike modern wall paper, both in quality and design.

"Christening papers" were evidently much in vogue among the early German settlers of Montgomery county, although they have passed out of use now. This one was a printed form, with blanks in which to write the names, dates, etc., in much the same manner as marriage certificates of the present day. It bears an imprint at the bottom, showing that it was printed by J. Schneider & Co., Reading, in the year 1798—nearly one hundred years ago.

The printed form is designed in the shape of a heart, while two smaller hearts at the bottom contain the words of an old German hymn appropriate to such an occasion as a christening. It is all in the German language, and the body of the document, translated, reads as follow:

"To Mr. Johannes Schmidt and his wedded house-wife, Elizabeth Jorger, a daughter F has been born into this world, F, named Susanna, in the year of our Lord Jesus 1787, the 23rd day of April, at 5 o'clock in the evening.

"This Susanna has been born and christened in America, in the State of Pennsylvania, in Montgomery county, in New Hanover township. Above said Susanna has been baptized the 5th day of June, 1787, by Mr. Fred. Delicker, the witnesses being Johannes Schneider and his wife Susanna.

"She was confirmed by Mr. John Faber, in the year 1802."

The hymn which follows is a very ancient and antiquated one, and it contains many obsolete idioms of the German language, so that it cannot easily be translated.

DESCENDANTS.

This Susanna Smith has two descendants living—Charles Smith, now living at Shannonville, at the age of 77; and Angeline Smith, wife of George Garey, now living at Port Providence, at the age of 64. She has eight children, twenty-three grand-children, and five great-grand-children.

From, *Record*
North Wales Pa.

Date, *Jan. 12th 1895*

LOCAL HISTORY.

THE SPERRY FAMILY AND HOMESTEAD, LOWER GWYNEDD—JOHN SPERRY AND HIS DESCENDANTS.

The Sperry family is one of long existence in Montgomery county, and having its origin in Lower Gwynedd. We believe those bearing the name elsewhere are all the posterity of the Gwynedd stock. Like others, the name was variously spelled in the olden time—Speri, Sperri, Sparey and Sparry. It is said to be of Norman-French origin, and the first immigrant came from the eastern part of France, bordering on the Rhine, now included in the German Empire. So far as the writer can ascertain, John Sperry or Speri was this immigrant, though "Rupp's Collection" mentions a Caspar Sperry as coming in 1743.

The exact date of the coming of John Sperry to this country is not known, but it was prior to the Revolution and he had grown up children at the time of that political convulsion. He brought over the sea a curious wooden chest, which is yet preserved by his descendants. He was conversant with the German language, as he left an old religious work, printed in Lubingen, Ger-

many, in 1768. It bears his name and the date of 1778. He was a man of some means, and the first we hear of him in Gwynedd was in 1775, when he purchased a tract of 272 acres of Edward Roberts, for which he paid £1,088, or about \$2,900 of our money. This comprised land also in Horsham, covering the present or recent farms of Ponsler and DeHaven, the Brown place, the lots of Patrick Cunningham and Charles M. Clemens, together with the former Robinson and Week lots in Horsham. The boundaries and neighbors at that time were: "Beginning at a corner of this and Samuel DeHaven, and in line of Edward Bright; thence by Bright's southwest 99 perches and southeast two perches; and then partly by Bright's and Conrad Gerhart's southwest 98 perches; thence by Henry Bergey northwest 105 perches and southwest 35 perches; thence by John Singer northwest 96 perches; thence by Jonathan Jones northeast 133 perches and northwest 5½ perches; then by Margaret Foulke northeast 103 perches to corner of this and Samuel DeHaven's; thence by DeHaven southeast 206 perches to beginning. This was the southwest part of a greater tract obtained by Edward Roberts in 1716, embracing also the former Danehower place in Horsham, now McKean Ingersoll's. In 1748 Edward Roberts conveyed by will to his son Robert. The next transfer was in 1762, when Robert Roberts gave a deed to his son Edward for the plantation. It was then a Roberts place for three generations, but the ownership of that family ended just at the beginning of the Revolution. The eastern portion of the estate, lying wholly in Horsham, was sold in 1774 to Samuel DeHaven, of Whitpain, who established a tanyard, and started that yet unsettled claim against the American government for supplies furnished to Washington's army. The Gwynedd portion, including also some land in Horsham, was, as above mentioned, conveyed to John Sperry a year later.

We know little or nothing concerning John Sperry, except that his ownership lasted thirty-two years, or till his death in 1807. He was not a young man at the time of his purchase, and he probably lived to reach an advanced age. In 1776 John Sperry was assessed for 100 acres, three horses and five cows. Possibly his remaining land was assessed to the renter thereof. In the assessment of 1792 are mentioned John Sperry, Jr., and Jacob Sperry. His residence was at the later Ponsler-DeHaven place, recently purchased by Aaron Sperry, one of his descendants. Here is quite an old frame and log house, of unknown antiquity. It is situated half a mile or more north of the Springhouse, and a little distance from the adjoining highways. A lane connects the farm buildings with the Welsh road.

Two of the sons of John Sperry are included in the list of 10,000 Pennsylvania soldiers of the Revolution recorded in the Archives. Their names were George

and Jacob, who were members of the 6th company of the 1st battalion of Philadelphia county militia, of which John Shelmire was captain. The death of John Sperry, the immigrant, took place in August, 1807. It is not unlikely that his birth may have occurred as early as 1725.

During his life time John Sperry had greatly diminished his tract by sales to various parties. The largest of these lay on the southeast side, which afterwards became the Shoemaker farm, and later the Brown property. This was detached in 1739, when 120 acres were sold to Ezekiel Shoemaker. A stone barn existed there at that date and which is still in existence, standing at quite a distance from the three surrounding highways. In 1797 a further amount of twenty acres were sold to Paul Kramer, a shoemaker from New Britain. This was the later work lot, now belonging to Charles M. Clemens. At the time of Sperry's death his remaining lands were 132 acres.

Cadwalader Foulke, executor of John Sperry, still further diminished the size of the plantation. A portion was conveyed to John Sperry, Jr., in 1809, comprising 24 acres. This was on the Horsham side, now the Fesmire place. It appears that another piece was also sold to the younger John Sperry, lying below the Prospectville road, in Gwynedd. Peter Sperry, another son, obtained a small tract in Horsham and Gwynedd. He lived in a house now demolished, standing in Horsham, east of the junction of the Welsh and Prospectville roads. John Week obtained another piece of twenty acres on the Horsham side, comprising the present lot of B. F. Taylor.

Jacob Sperry was the son who obtained the original homestead by will of his father, but for which he paid \$1,366 to the other heirs. It was wholly in Gwynedd, and comprised 62 acres. It fronted the Horsham border for just one-fourth of a mile. On the northwest side was a long narrow strip, part of the land of John Smith, who owned the present farm of Samuel Danehower.

The ownership of Jacob Sperry lasted thirty-six years, or till his death, which occurred in August, 1843. He was an elder of Boehm's church in 1821. Daniel Foulke was his administrator. Then the homestead descended to his daughter, Hannah Sperry. At her death, in 1857, her will of October 26th bequeathed the property to the children of Abraham DeHaven, whose wife was Mary, daughter of John Sperry, Jr. These children were: William, born January 27, 1816; Mary, born June 8, 1818; Hannah, wife of Isaac Ponsler, born October 19, 1822. These were the joint owners during life. Their deaths occurred as follows: Hannah Ponsler, March 5, 1883; William DeHaven, November 8, 1891; Mary DeHaven, March 8, 1890. Abraham DeHaven, father of this family, was the son of Samuel DeHaven; was born May 5, 1774, and died August 6th, 1853. His wife, Mary Sperry, was born October 5,

1787. After the death of the late Isaac Ponsler, the property was bought by Aaron Sperry.

From the remaining children of John Sperry have sprung numerous descendants, not all of whom can be traced now.

Peter Sperry was one of the younger sons of the immigrants. He was born about 1760, and died in 1862 at the remarkable age of 102 years. He had children, John, Jonathan and others.

John removed to Germantown. Jonathan lived on the former Mullen and later Myers place, on the Eureka road, in Horsham. His wife was Dorothy Ottinger. He had sons, Isaiah, of Lower Gwynedd, and William, deceased, of North Wales. There were daughters, Sarah Berkheimer and Susan Hufnagle.

John Sperry, Jr., was born in 1759. His wife was Magdalene Smith, born in 1756. He had children, John, Mary, wife of Abraham DeHaven, and Jacob, besides Susan, a half sister, who married a Lewis. Of these, John, born in 1785, married Sarah Sheive and had children, Mary, Aaron, George, Elizabeth and Lydia, wife of Lawrence Hawkins, brother of William Hawkins, of New Britain. Aaron is a widely known citizen of Lower Gwynedd, holding a large amount of property there. His wife was Miss Rowe.

Sarah Sheive first married a Lutheran preacher named Hecht or Haight, at the age of sixteen. He died in a few years, and she was a widow before reaching twenty. Her husband was the son of Anthony Hecht, who was pastor of the Lutheran church at North Wales from 1786 to 1792. There were three daughters by her first marriage, Harriet, born in 1814 and now living; Sophia and Catharine. Harriet married Silas Thomas, son of Josiah Thomas, of Hilltown, a well known teacher, who died in Philadelphia some years ago. She had children, Dr. John S., William, Silas II., Lizzie and Mary, the latter married to Samuel Spanogle. Sophia Sheive married George Legenberger. Catharine Sheive married James Talley.—"E. M." in *Jenkinson Chronicle*.

From,

Record

North Wales Pa

Date,

Jan. 19th 1895

THREE HISTORIC GOVERNORS.

BY LEWIS R. HARLEY, PH. D.

The inauguration of Daniel H. Hastings, as Governor of Pennsylvania, on Tuesday last, recalls to mind the eminent services of three historic Governors who were born in Montgomery county—

David Rittenhouse Porter, Francis Rawn Shunk and John F. Hartranft. Governor Porter was of Irish descent and his ancestors came to this country early in the last century. The family settled in Norriton township, near Norristown, on a tract of land now included within the borough limits. The sons of Andrew Porter have been truly distinguished. David R. Porter was Governor of Pennsylvania from 1838 to 1844. His brother, General James M. Porter, was Judge, United States Marshal and Secretary of War under President Tyler. Another brother, George B. Porter, was Judge, United States Marshal, and afterwards Governor of Michigan Territory. David R. Porter settled in Huntington county early in life, and followed business pursuits. He served with distinction in the Assembly and the State Senate. In 1838 he was elected Governor of Pennsylvania. He was the first Governor to serve under the new Constitution of 1838. The Commonwealth was just entering upon a new era. The Constitution of 1838 effected some marked changes in our system of State government. The color line was for the first time drawn in the qualifications to vote. The tenure of office of the Judges was limited—of the Supreme Court to fifteen years, and of the Common Pleas to ten years, and their appointment was to be made by the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. Justices of the Peace and all the county officers were to be elected, and a number of minor changes were made. Governor Porter assumed the duties of office under this new form of government, and his administration was so popular that he was elected to a second term in 1841. During his term of office he urged the development of the internal resources of the State. He recommended the building of a railroad to connect with the Mississippi river, and he lived long enough to see this accomplished. Governor Porter took great interest in the success of the public schools. The system was then in its infancy, but he devoted much of his time in settling the numerous difficulties connected with the establishment of the system. One of the last acts of his official career, as Governor, was the suppression of the riots which occurred in Philadelphia in 1844, when he personally, took command of the military forces. He retired from office with the respect of his fellow citizens, and spent the remainder of his life

at Harrisburg, where he died in 1867. By a coincidence, he was inaugurated Governor on January 15, the same date on which Governor Hastings' inauguration took place.

Francis Rawn Shunk was also born in Montgomery county. His native village was the Trappe, where he spent his boyhood days. At the age of fifteen he became a school teacher. In 1812, he filled a clerkship in the Surveyor-General's office at Harrisburg, and at the same time he pursued the study of law. In 1814 he entered the army as a private and marched to the defense of Baltimore. Governor Porter appointed him Secretary of State in 1838, and on retiring from this office, he began the practice of law in Pittsburg. Francis R. Shunk was elected Governor in 1844, and he conducted his administration so successfully that he was re-elected in 1847. Pulmonary disease undermined his health, and he died July 9, 1848.

He was, in fact, a self-made man, and every advance step in his brilliant career was at the expense of great privation and toil. He studied at night by the light of the wood fire in the chimney corner, and in this way so improved his mind that he could appreciate the classical German literature and delight in the study of Kant's and Hegel's philosophy. As a counsellor at law, he had few superiors in his day, but it was as Chief Magistrate of the State that he displayed his greatest abilities. His messages and other public utterances show a depth of thought that at once command attention. His remains were buried at the Trappe, in the old Lutherau graveyard, where also lies the dust of the Muhlenbergs, those brave patriots who not only carried the gospel into the wilderness of America, but who also girded the sword in the Revolution in defense of our liberties. As one stands in this ancient graveyard,

"Where heaves the turf in many a mouldering heap,"

where a plain monument marks the tomb of Francis R. Shunk, the mind is led to reflect upon the brilliant career of this man who conquered adversity by honest toil, and then in mature manhood received the highest public gift at the hands of his fellow citizens. He was not only an upright statesman, but his private character contained many charming traits. There was a genial sunshine flowing through his life, and he imparted

this to all with whom he came in contact. There was a deep religious feeling in his life; and on his death bed, his last words were a message of hope, and he passed silently away.

"Like one who wraps the draperies of his couch

Around him; and lies down to pleasant dreams."

John F. Hartrauft, who served as Governor from 1872 to 1879, was also born in Montgomery county. His early life was spent in New Hanover township, but his parents removed to Norristown in 1844. He graduated at Union College, studied law and was admitted to practice in the courts of Montgomery county. He had an honorable military career. He responded to Lincoln's call for troops in 1861. He served as a Colonel in the Bull Run campaign, and joined the expedition to Hatteras Inlet in 1862. He took part in the engagements of the second battle of Bull Run and Chantilly. Again he served at Antietam, and after two brigades had failed to take the bridge, Hartrauft filed out of the woods on to the bridge with his command, and bowing his head to the storm of shot, he shouted: "Follow me, boys." Again, at Fort Stedman, he performed the greatest and most gallant deed by any single division commander in the history of the war, when he went in with a division of troops never yet under fire, and conquered one of the best soldiers of the Confederate army. At the close of the war, he served two terms as Auditor-General of the State, and in 1872 he was elected Governor. He was re-elected in 1875, and after the expiration of his term he resided in Norristown, where he died in 1889. During his first term as Governor, the new Constitution of 1873 went into effect. A number of radical changes were made in the plan of government. A number of guards were thrown around the enactment of laws, and special legislation was prohibited on eighteen different subjects. During Governor Hartrauft's second term, in 1877, the railroad riots occurred, but he promptly met the trouble by ordering out the whole military power of the State at once, and the results proved the wisdom of the measures that were adopted.

General Hartrauft was a quiet and unassuming man. He was simple in all his ways, and in private life he appeared quite different from the great hero that he was in the time of rebellion, when he fought so gallantly in his country's

cause. His name, like that of Hancock, is seldom mentioned by the historians; but in the next century, when the clouds of prejudice shall have cleared away, the virtues of both of these men will shine in a true light. There is much in their lives that is worthy of being taught in our schools, and as they repose side by side in Montgomery cemetery, where

"The bugle's loud and warlike blasts
Shall muster them no more,"

they silently teach the beautiful lesson of devotion to their country, faithfulness in the discharge of every public duty, and the greatest simplicity in private life.

From, *Republican*

Lansdale Pa

Date, *Jan'y 30 '95*

LOCAL HISTORY.

The Site of Lansdale—The old time Land-owners—The Ellis Family—Jenkins Family.—The Hoxworths.

The site of Lansdale is generally a level plain, except a depression in the southern part, from whence flows a rivulet southward. The name, though euphonious enough is hardly applicable, as respects its surface. It is neither descriptive of the topography of the location, nor historical in its significance. It is not a "dale," but rather a high level plain, a summit level from which the drainage flows towards the Neshaminy to the north and to the Towamencin on west. The land rises to the southwest, from which the town may be viewed as from a higher level. Doubtless in early times the site of the present borough and town was largely comprised of low meadows and marshy forests.

THE ELLIS FAMILY AND LANDS.

The site of Lansdale in Colonial times was owned by several Welsh and English families, and it will therefore have to be considered in sections. We will begin with those portions once in Gwynedd

township.

On the 11th of July, 1712 was made a deed to Margaret John, a Welsh woman who never lived in America, conveying 500 acres from her brother William John. This land had indeed been previously purchased and held in trust for her use. She was then a widow, having previously married a man of the same name. In her last will, made on the 2d of July, 1715, she speaks of herself as a resident of Wales. This will was preserved among the papers of the late John Martin, of Upper Gwynedd. These 500 acres comprised not only the western half of Lansdale, but also the present White and Martin farms, the park, and the various lots and farms south and east of White's Corner. The tract reached up to the Towamencin border. A later survey made the area to be 556 acres.

A daughter of Margaret John had married one Ellis, in Wales, and to the sons of this daughter was willed the whole of their grandmother's landed property in America. Their names were John Owen and Robert Ellis, and they lived in the county of Merioneth, Wales. Although the tract was divided equally among the three, yet upon the death of Robert, when a young, unmarried man, it became separated into two parts and held by Owen and John Ellis. Owen Ellis took the southwest side, while John received the 250 acres about which we are the most concerned in this history.

Nine years passed away, and in 1724, John Ellis, then of Gwynedd, sold his 250 acres to Theodore Ellis for £100. In this no mention is made of any improvements, and we may suppose that the whole was a marshy plain, covered with forests. This tract was just three-quarters of a mile long, reaching from Broad street to the Towamencin line. Then it was a little over half a mile wide, reaching from Main street 167 perches southwest, wherever that distance may lead you.

Upon this tract Theodore Ellis made some improvements and cleared some of the land. He is mentioned among the taxables of 1734. The site of his dwelling, erected about 1725, is a matter of conjecture. The wording of his will points to some situation along Main street, such as the Clemmer place, or the former Brady farm. Three sons and one daughter are mentioned in his will: Robert, Rowland, Griffith and Jane—the latter the wife of Robert Hugh. To Robert was willed 150 acres. "part of the tract I now live on," to be laid off on the north side of the same with the buildings thereon. The widow, Gwen Ellis, was to enjoy all the rents and the profits from fifty acres, part of the 150 acres, and on the north side thereof during her natural life. His son Rowland received "the residue of the tract where I now live, containing 100 acres." The latter was on the lower side, along Broad street.

The probabilities point to the former residence of Levi Jenkins, and latterly of Abraham Weigner, as the site where Rowland Ellis lived. Griffith, the other son, received his portion in money, amounting to £75. This will was made in 1738. Gwen Ellis, the widow, survived 19 years, or till May 1757. Her property was a tract extending 1200 feet southwest from Main street, and covered the Clemmer farm, and part of the Cannon estate above the Reformed church.

The Ellis family were Quakers, members of Gwynedd, and from their records we learn that in 1734, Robert Ellis married, Sarah, daughter of Meredith Davis, of Gwynedd. Her father lived at the present farm of Simon Knipe. Griffith Ellis, then a widower, married Jane Lewis in 1735. She lived in Gwynedd.

In the year 1757 the homestead of Rowland Ellis was sold for debt by Sheriff James Coultres and bought by his brother Robert Ellis. In the following year, 1758, it finally passed from the Ellis family, when 82 acres was sold to John Jenkins. Heebner's shops, Freed's Hotel and the REPUBLICAN office are on the east corner of this purchase, and the Reformed church on the north corner. From this north corner it extended 1200 feet southwest; when it angled down southeast 640 feet to Susquehanna street, which formed the upper boundary out to the cross road beyond the Cemetery. It is obvious that the Junction House, Lownes' Hotel, the Evangelical church, and the new factory are ground covered by the lands of Rowland Ellis.

THE JENKINS OWNERSHIP.

No history of Lansdale, of the past, or an account of its present can be written without mention of the family of Jenkins. Thenceforth this portion of the old Ellis plantation was held by the Jenkins family for upwards of eighty years. John Jenkins made his will in 1794 devising this land to his son Levi, who had married Susan Shive. The other children were John, Jr., who married Elizabeth Walker; Edward, who married Sarah Foulke; Jesse, unmarried; Elizabeth who married—Hughes, of Towamencin; Mary, who married—Wentz; Sarah, Lewis and lastly Ann, who married Hugh Cousty. John Jenkins, Jr, lived to the great age of ninety-four, dying in North Wales in 1880, and was the father-in-law of Abel Lukens. He was Assessor of Gwynedd for twenty years, and his father had filled that office in the days of the Revolution.

Levi Jenkins had been born in 1752, and was the owner of the property the remainder of his life, which ended October 2d, 1832. In his will this portion of his land was devised to his children, John Levi and Elizabeth. His other children were George, Sarah, Abigail, Ann, Mary and Susannah Eaton. Of these, John became a Baptist preacher. In 1840,

Levi sold the homestead to Abraham Weigner, and removed to Montgomery township. These acres are now covered by the houses of Lansdale. Weigner's house was on the northwest side of Broad street. He sold to Henry Shull, and after the advent of the railroad in 1856, the property was divided into building lots. One of the two lots devised by her father to Elizabeth, or "Betsey" Jenkins, was on the southeast side of Broad street, the dwelling being on the site of the present residence of Oliver M. Evans. It comprised 14 acres. It was the site of the residence of John Herr previously to 1799. In 1845 it was seized by Sheriff James Wells. It has since been much sub-divided, and built upon.

From,

Gazette
Ambleton 104

Date,

May 31 '95

LOCAL HISTORY.

The Centre Square Hotel—The Old Waggon Tavern—Thomas Fitzwater—Samuel DeHaven—Colonel Thomas Humphrey.

The Centre Square hotel has a history of perhaps a century and a half. It is at present a large stone building, standing at the west corner of the crossing of the State road and the Skippack turnpike. It is kept and owned by Albert Mauck, formerly of Norristown. It is the polling place of Whitpain township. The surface hereabouts is rather low and level. A brook, called Silver Run by some, flows westward, crossing the turnpike a few yards northwest, hastening through meadows and fields to its junction with the Stony creek, two miles to the northward.

This tavern has had a long list of owners, some of whom were notable people. The crossing of two such important roads was such to be occupied by an inn in the olden time. The exact time when it first became a public house is at present shrouded in mystery. The only thing that the writer is certain about is that in 1758 it was marked the "Waggon" tavern on Scull's map. Probability indicates that it had been opened several years before that time. Owing to the absence of records we cannot tell who was the owner of this corner between 1740 and 1760. We know that after the latter date Lawrence Reemey or Rannich was the owner. According to the Whitpain

tax book of 1761, he rented forty acres at this corner to Thomas Fitzwater, who was the landlord. Of the farm attached, twenty-five acres were in forest, and only one sown to winter grain. Fitzwater kept two horses and two cows. On the opposite, or south corner, was a twenty-acre lot leased by Rose Fitzwater, widow, to Frederick Karn. All this was cleared of forest except one acre, and seven acres were sown to grain. He kept two horses and two cows. Rose Fitzwater owned the later Dannehower farm, farther southwest, holding ninety acres there.

THE FITZWATERS.

The Fitzwaters were an English family, and among the earliest settlers of this State. Thomas Fitzwater came from Middlesex, England, in 1682. He was a man of ability and an eminent preacher among the Society of Friends. He represented both Bucks and Philadelphia counties in the Assembly. He resided in Upper Dublin, where he owned 200 acres. He died October 6, 1699. In 1737 the Penns granted by patent to his sons Thomas and George 200 acres in Whitpain, and by 1734 Thomas Fitzwater was assessed for 150 acres. This is believed to have been on the southeast side of the State road. He died in 1761. He had a son Thomas, who was probably the landlord in 1761. He was one of nine children, whose names were William, Mary, Martha, Catharine, Deborah, Joseph, George and Jeremiah. Thomas obtained the real estate of 110 acres, and lived till 1790, leaving sons George and John and Rachel, who married John Mathews, of Hilltown.

It appears that Lawrence Rannich owned more than 40 acres at this corner, amounting to 114 acres. It extended out the State road for half a mile, and along the Skippack road 101 perches, or nearly one-third of a mile. It included the site of the later Brick tavern, more recently the Coleman property. By the date of 1773, Rannich got in debt, and his lands were seized by Judah Foulke, Sheriff, who sold to John Porter. The latter was known to have been the landlord during the earlier years of the Revolution.

In 1776 Porter detached ten acres at the corner, selling it to Benjamin Penose. This was 37 perches along the State road, was 46 perches wide at the southwest end, and was bounded by the Skippack road 39½ perches. The deed was witnessed by Adam Lutz and Henry Conrad. Penose was the owner during the later Revolutionary period. In 1783 he sold the lot to Isaac DeHaven for £270—a price that indicates quite inferior buildings. In this deed both parties are called farmers, so that possibly the license had ceased for a time. In 1791 Isaac DeHaven sold to Samuel DeHaven. With increasing market travel, this site seemed very profitable for a tavern, though there was one other existing within half a mile. So Samuel DeHaven proceeded to

build a log and stone house, and obtained a license about 1792. Five years later he sold to Moses DeHaven. Then the same year a transfer was made to John Wentz. Neither did he keep it, as in 1797 he sold it to Leonard Styer.

LEONARD STYER

was born in 1768, the son of Jacob Styer. He was a tavern keeper in various places, including also Broad Axe, Philadelphia and Norristown, where he kept the Rambo House. Twelve years of his life were passed in Wilkesbarre. He lived fifteen years afterwards on the township line road, Gwynedd, on the farm now owned by Jefferson Rile. His life was ended at Berwick, Colombia county. His wife was a daughter of Cornelius Tyson. His sons were Cornelius, George, Henry, Joseph and David. He was owner of this Centre Square tavern for four years, selling in 1801 to Thomas Humphrey. The sign in 1804 was a female holding a set of scales, representing Justice.

THOMAS HUMPHREY

was the son of Charles Humphrey and born in Montgomery township in 1774. His father was second lieutenant of the 4th militia company of the 4th battalion in the Revolution. He belonged to a Welsh Baptist family long domiciled there. He was a man of mark, and became one of the representative men of Montgomery county during the first twenty years of this century. Humphrey owned all the corners and started a store here in 1800. He rebuilt the tavern of stone. In 1802 he bought twenty acres of the Fitzwater tract at the south corner. He became prominent in military and political affairs. County political conventions were held at his house. He was appointed captain of a company of artillery in 1804, and afterwards became a colonel in a battalion. Later on he rose to the rank of a major-general. He raised a company of riflemen in 1814 to go to Marcus Hook. The present site of the almshouse was agreed upon at Humphrey's tavern by a large meeting of citizens held October 8, 1806. Much interest and excitement prevailed at the time. The first post office in the township was established here in 1828, and James Bush made postmaster. The following is a series of events which happened during Humphrey's ownership:

1805, May. Commissioners met at his tavern to receive proposals for the building of a bridge over Oil Mill run on Skippack road in Whitpain.

1805, Sept. 26. County Convention of the Federal Republican party held here.

1805, Dec. 7. Meeting of Democrats and Republicans who were opposed to Governor McKean.

1806, June. Thomas Humphrey presided at a meeting of the Democratic Republican party held at Blue Bell.

1808, June 22. Thomas Humphrey offered a reward of \$30 for a large bay horse, 6 years old, 16 hands high. Stolen from his field, and an inferior small bay horse left in his place.

1809, Oct. 4. He advertises that he has a fine young ram of the Leicester breed, full-blooded stock.

1809, March 29. Advertises township rights for sale of patent churning machines.

1811, Sept. 11. Advertises a full-blooded Merino ram.

1813. A Fourth of July celebration held at his tavern. The meeting was presided over by George Heist, and Humphrey was vice president. The Declaration was read and dinner served, at which various toasts were offered.

1814, March 30. A court martial was held at the hotel for the trial of delinquents and deserters, and of which Colonel Thomas Humphrey was a member.

1813, Oct. 19. General Harrison's capture of Malden, Canada, was celebrated by a general illumination of the houses above and below Humphrey's hotel, and a military procession formed.

Political conventions continued to be held at the public house of Colonel Humphrey as long as he kept the same, or till about 1819.

Colonel Humphrey was connected with the military as an officer for many years, and saw service at Marcus Hook in 1814.

His last will was made in 1820, and his death took place October 3d, 1822, at the age of forty-eight. He was buried at Montgomery Baptist churchyard. In his will mention is made of two daughters, Eliza Hart, wife of Samuel Wentz, and Rebecca Rees Humphrey.

The tavern property belonged to the heirs of Thomas Humphrey for thirty years. His son-in-law, Samuel Wentz, was his successor as landlord. The latter met his death in a tragical way, September 11, 1826, when less than thirty-four years of age. Henry H. Groff then kept the upper tavern. Tradition says there was a good deal of bickering and ill feeling between the two landlords. It was a rough and tumble time when there was much drinking, and many fights and brawls in comparison with the present. One evening Wentz attended some public meeting held in the hall above the stable of his rival's inn. He was called out and came down, whereupon he was set upon by Groff's hostler and so badly beaten that he died a few days afterwards in consequence. No public notice was taken of his death and the name of his assailant has now faded from men's recollections. Eliza, the widow of Wentz, survived him nearly thirty years, her death occurring August 28th, 1855, in her fifty-seventh year.

In 1851 Thomas H. Wentz sold the

tavern to Wells Tomlinson, who in 1853 conveyed to Enos L. Hoxworth. The succeeding transfers have been: 1857, Hoxworth to Joel Wentz; 1862, Wentz to Jesse B. Fisher; 1866, Fisher to Wm. Hood; 1866, Hood to Charles Fillman; 1867, Fillman to Albert Katz, who kept the tavern for fifteen years. In 1882 Katz sold to William C. Blackburn, now host of the old hotel at Ambler; 1886, Blackburn to Frank H. Elcock; 1887, Elcock to Elwood Hart; 1893, Hart to Albert Mauck, the present owner.

Thomas Humphrey had one other daughter, not mentioned above. Her name was Sarah. She died a young woman of eighteen, December 21, 1818. Rebecca Rees was the only one of the family who reached old age, her death taking place February 23, 1877, when in her seventy-fifth year. Euphemia, the widow of Humphrey, survived him till March 6, 1835, having reached the age of fifty-nine. The tombstone of Colonel Humphrey bears the following obituary:

"He was constant in his attendance
Upon the public worship of God;
And liberal in supplying the temporal
Worship of the church. The different
Civil and military stations to which
He was elevated by his fellow creatures
He filled with reputation to himself
And advantage to his country."

E. M.

From, *Republican*
Lansdale R

Date, *2 / 6 / 95*

LOCAL HISTORY.

The Site of Lansdale—The old time Land-owners—The Ellis Family—Jenkins Family—The Hoxworths.

(Continued from last week.)

THE OLD STILLWAGGON FARM—THE MCDOWELL PLACE.

This portion of the old Ellis estate has not as yet been so much built upon as the remainder. It was the heritage of Robert Ellis, who held 150 acres. It was the former Stillwaggon farm. He lived where Francis McDowell has his country seat, on the western borders of Lansdale. A brief of title from the Ellis ownership cannot be given. In 1774 it was owned

Amos Strettle. The Ellis family are not mentioned in the tax list of 1776. As early as 1775 Peter Lukens owned the whole tract of 158 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres. He came there after 1776, but before 1786. This tract extended up to near White's corner. In 1803 Lukens sold the whole to two speculators—John Reiff, a merchant of Lower Salford and Hugh Cousty, a wheelwright of Perkiomen, and a son-in-law of John Jenkins. They immediately began to sell it out in parcels. The west corner was sold to Henry Naveel, an old Revolutionary soldier, whose descendants live in North Wales; a portion along the Towamencin line was sold to Frederick Knipe, and a larger portion next to Hatfield was conveyed to Peter Bucheimer. Reiff and Cousty retained the extreme north portion.

Seventy-five acres at the south corner was sold to Philip Stillwaggon for £750. Here was already a homestead, where a house had been built long before, and probably the residence of some of the Ellis family. This stood on the meadow bank, while in front a rivulet flowed westward through a meadow, being one of the sources of the Towamencin. Its confined waters, now form the lake in the Park grounds. Stillwaggon had this for his home the remainder of his life. At its end in 1840, his executors sold to Henry Derstine, which family remained here the next quarter of a century. It came into possession of Francis McDowell in 1861. On the property northwest, now also McDowell's, the dwelling was erected by Henry Hoot in 1835. For many years subsequent to 1840 it was owned by Asa Thomas, a native of Hilltown, whose father boasted the same name.

THE LANDS OF GWEN ELLIS.

We now come to the properties lying on the Hatfield borders, above the old Jenkins tract. It is a level plain to the Towamencin line, and now partly built upon. The little farm of John D. Clemmer was the heritage of "the widow Ellis" and which probably included at least a portion of the Cannon estate. From this to the Towamencin line were the lands of Robert Ellis, and afterwards of Amos Strettle and later of Peter Lukens. At least a portion of the fifty acres in which Gwen Ellis, widow of Theophilus, held a life right, became the heritage of her son Rowland after her death in 1757. This lot comprised twenty acres, now in Lansdale, along the turnpike. We do not know when Rowland Ellis died, but it was earlier than 1794, and his surviving widow, Judith, died in Hatfield in 1807.

Benjamin Ellis, the only son of Rowland Ellis died before his mother. There were three daughters, Mary Simpson, Catharine, wife of Jacob Ford and Ann Wickham. These petitioned the Orphans Court, February 15, 1808 for a partition of the property. Sheriff Dewees appraised the land at \$45 per acre, and it was sold to Peter Hoxworth. Thus, with the death of Judith Ellis in 1807, the last piece of the Ellis plantation, once of 250 acres, passed out of the name. There was a house on it at the beginning of this century, and probably long before. Such dwelling was mentioned in the deed of the property in 1810, when Peter Hoxworth sold to Jesse Roberts. The latter died soon after, and in 1817, his widow Rachel, in conjunction with the heirs of the estate, gave a deed to Henry Newberry, of Worcester, who had married Elizabeth, daughter of John Hoxworth. After a considerable period Newberry sold to John Sautter. The later transfers have been: 1833, John B. Sautter to Henry Cassel; Cassel to Henry Johnson; 1859, Johnson to John D. Clemmer.

THE BRADY FARM.

This was above the lands of Gwen Ellis, and the north corner of the plantation of Robert Ellis. As before mentioned, before the Revolution Amos Strettle became the owner, then Peter Lukens, who conveyed thirty-four acres to Peter Bucheimer in 1803. It would be tedious to more than mention the subsequent transfers. There was a house on it a hundred years ago. In 1807, Bucheimer sold to Henry Settser, of Skippack; 1811, Settser to George Sperry; 1814, Sperry to Abraham Landes, who actually stayed 13 years; 1827, Landes to Dr. Henry Fry, of Towamencin, who immediately transferred to Jacob Brunner; 1893, Brunner to Michael Derr; 1836, Derr to Daniel Gaiser; 1842, Gaiser to John Brady, of Horsham. It was later owned by heirs of William Cannon. The lot formerly of Solomon Unruh, now the residence of Rev. Seiple at the extreme north corner of the township, and opposite the toll-gate was formerly part of the Kulp estate, and has had many owners during past forty years.

THE SOUTH CORNER OF LANSDALE—ROBERT HUGEL.—THE JENKINS HOMESTEAD.

We next come to relate something of the southern part of Lansdale, or that part lying southwest of Main and southeast of Broad, and including some portion of Gwynedd township. It is a rectangular piece gradually rising to much higher ground on the southeast from where a fine view of Lansdale may be obtained. The northern and western portion of this tract is thickly built upon. On it is Heebner's foundry, several mechanic shops and Effrig's pork factory. A meadow stream drains it flowing westward, and where dammed near Effrig's establishment, affords fine skating in winter. The houses of the town have crept down

the railroad for upwards of half a mile, beyond which is farm land. It is only a question of time when streets and houses will more and more encroach upon the fields and remnant of woodland.

To go back to the beginning, this was part of the immense patent of 2865 acres made to William John in 1702, and the north corner of the 1400 acres conveyed to his son John Jones by his father's will of 1712. In 1716, two hundred acres, reaching from Broad street southeast to the Martindale house, was sold by John Jones to Robert Hugh, another Welshman. Hugh possessed this tract for thirty years, until 1746. Where was his residence is not known, but probabilities point to the site of the old Jenkins homestead, between Main and Jenkins' avenue, Lansdale. In 1746, Hugh sold off the upper part of his plantation to John Jenkins, comprising 100 acres of its northeast side. This was a long narrow strip reaching from Broad street to the cross road, coming out at the Catholic church, but only extending about two-thirds of the distance in width toward the parallel road in Gwynedd. It was some 3000 feet in length, but only about 1400 feet in width. Hugh sold the lower end of his plantation or about forty acres to John Griffith. This was below the cross road. He retained fifty acres, comprising the properties of Charles S. Jenkins, and the former Eaton farm, and other lands up to Broad

street, on the northeast side of the road, crossing both the Stony Creek and North Penn railroads. In this was fifty-eight acres. Robert Hughes died in 1759, being a very old man. In 1763, his son Davis Hughes sold his homestead to Catharine Brown, a widow. It was in 1763 that a German, named Samuel Moseman, obtained possession of the latter property who lived here the remainder of his life which closed at the beginning of the Revolution. In 1776, the executors of Moseman sold to Martin Ricker. The latter was a Lutheran and appears as one of the former Trustees to whom was conveyed the land whereon was erected the old Yellow Church, North Wales. Ricker was the owner during the Revolutionary period, holding possession fifteen years. In 1791 he sold to Daniel Hamsher, a weaver, who in turn sold in 1793 to John Herr, also a weaver. Finally, in 1797, Herr sold 44½ acres to John Jenkins, and part of this remains a Jenkins property to this day. The upper end of 13½ acres, next to Broad street, was sold by Herr in 1799 to Levi Jenkins. In 1807, Edward Jenkins, father of Charles S. Jenkins, the banker, became the possessor of the homestead where the latter resides.

John Jenkins, above mentioned, was the son of John Jenkins, Sr., and born in 1743. He was a soldier during the Revolutionary War and served at Trenton, Germantown and other battles. His wife, once Elizabeth Walker, who was left alone in his absence with none but her family of

small children at her residence, now in Lansdale, fed and lodged the American soldiers scattered and fleeing from Germantown after that unfortunate battle. They filled the old mansion to its utmost capacity, but offered no harm to her or her children. Her husband died in 1805 in his 63d year. She survived till 1843, reaching the great age of ninety-two.

The old stone house of two stories, roomy and large, situated in the lower part of Lansdale, between Main and Jenkins avenue, was erected by the third John Jenkins, who was born in 1786 and died in North Wales in 1880. It yet remains a relic of the past, fronting due south amid trim, modern dwellings, a large buttonwood standing in front, and the convenient spring of water near at hand.

This is doubtless on or near the site where the grandfather of the builder had his home in a dwelling preceding the present, and wherein the soldiers were fed and lodged in the days of the Revolution.

THE NOTRH SECTION OF LANSDALE—THE OLD SERVER FARM.

This portion of Lansdale is now thickly crowded with buildings. It comprises the region northeast of Main and northwest of Walnut. It is split by the North Penn railroad and the station is on the south corner. Here is Godshall's large flouring mill, Geller's Grand Emporium, Zane's bakery and C. D. Godshall's sash factory. The stove works are on the upper side, covering a large area of space, and on the opposite side of the railroad is the new brick yard.

The history of this quarter has been so recently given in the REPUBLICAN that a brief recapitulation will suffice. Like other portions of Lansdale it was part of a Colonial plantation of the olden time. The first real settler was a Welshman, named Edward Lewis, who in 1727 bought 400 acres for £100 of James Logan. It is supposed that Lewis lived at the homestead of the late Philip Jenkins, now standing, but recently uninhabited. Lewis sold to Benjamin Rosenberger before 1760, who that year conveyed to Solomon Sell. Jacob Server, or Sorver, a German, bought the property in 1763 for £230 then reduced to 106 acres. His daughter Margaret married Edward Jenkins, son of John Jenkins, who lived here many years. He died in Upper Gwynedd in 1872 at the age of eighty-three. His children were three, Philip, now deceased; Mary Ann, who married Charles D. Mathews, of New Britain, and Charles S. Jenkins, the Lansdale banker.

In 1861 Margaret Jenkins, widow, sold 48 acres to the North Penn railroad and other parties. The south corner of the Server farm extended to the station, and was a piece of meadow and marshy woodland. The coming of the railroad in 1856 changed all things here and the march of improvement began.

THE EASTERN SECTION OF LANSDALE—

JOHN JEKINS—PETER HOXWORTH.

It remains only to treat of the eastern portion of Lansdale with reference to the former history of its area. This is mostly a level plain, gradually rising to the northeast and subsiding at the east corner. It comprises the region between Main and Petticoat Lane, and between Walnut and Line streets. It was the latest section of the town to be invaded with buildings, but recently the march of improvement has been quite rapid. Here are the Trust Company building, Music Hall, the *Reporter* office, the public school house, Baptist, Episcopal, Methodist and Lutheran churches and Van Fossen's store. Twenty years ago it was partly covered with forests and low bushes, and where, in 1871, the German Methodists held a camp meeting.

The old records tell us that this was the southwest end of a plantation bought by Jenkin Jenkins, a Welsh immigrant, from Joseph Tucker on November 17th, 1730. This comprised 350 acres reaching to the Cowpath. He died in 1745, leaving 150 acres of this tract of land to his son John. The latter, in 1749, sold 100 acres to his son-in-law, Peter Hoxworth, an Englishman. These hundred acres were a piece almost exactly square, or 126 by 127 perches each way, and therefore fronting on Main street about 2090 feet, and running northeast the same distance. It is certain that before 1761 there was a house on this tract, which is supposed to have been on Petticoat Lane, near or at the Neihoffer property. In 1761, John Hoxworth, son of Peter, came into possession, paying his father £200 for the property. John Hoxworth died in February, 1777, in his 44th year. It was not till 1791 that his heirs conveyed to Edward Hoxworth, the oldest son, for £205. The latter remained living till 1846. He was the grandfather of General Winfield S. Hancock, whose mother was his daughter Elizabeth. In 1851 the administrators of the Hoxworth estate sold 75 acres, now part of Lansdale, to Dr. Jacob Lambert and Charles L. Wampole for \$3,015. This has long since been covered by the buildings of the town. Another tract bordering Walnut street, that was once owned by Levi Jenkins, is now covered by handsome dwellings.

In the foregoing sketch concerning the former history of the site of Lansdale, notice has only been taken of the transfers of property and of the names of the successive owners of land. This is but a skeleton history, but it is pretty much all that is known. Of the personal lives of these people, their joys and sorrows, we know nothing. These must be left to the imagination freely to conjecture. In Colonial days the site of the busy, bustling town was not wholly uninhabited, but here were the dwellings of five or six families. Considerable forests remained, and they gained a living, none

too plentiful, from the products of their fields and meadows. They little dreamed of the future of the spot where they lived as we little know what is to happen within a hundred years to come. There was nothing in the natural site or advantages of the region upon which to prophesy that this undulating plain should become a mart of trade, the site of busy workshops, the scene of many happy homes. It was only the accident that the North Penn railroad crossed here that started the march of improvement nearly forty years ago. Since then the industry of its people, the enterprise of its leading citizens and their willingness to spend their money freely in home enterprises have constantly set going successive improvements and added to the growth and prosperity of the town.

LOCAL HISTORY.

The Enrollment of Upper Gwynedd in the Revolution.

The following list comprises the names of the able bodied men of Upper Gwynedd, enrolled for military service at the beginning of the Revolution. A few may have been from without the township. They were included in the militia company commanded by Captain Stephen Bloom. The First Lieutenant was Daniel Bloom, Second Lieutenant, John Jenkins; Ensign, John Johnson. Of these we are sure that John Jenkins saw active service, and was engaged in several battles. He lived within the present borough of Lansdale.

It must not be supposed that more than part of these men went to the army. They were enrolled ready for service. If they would not take part in military training they were subject to fines, as was the case with the Quakers and others. The majority of the population then was of German origin, as is the case at the present day. Of these sixty-two names, about twenty-eight appear to be Welsh, and the remainder German or Hollander.

PRIVATES.

Amos Allbright.	Hugh Evans.
Mathias Boas.	John Erwin.
Barnet Beaver.	Caleb Foulke.
Jacob Brown.	Daniel Freas.
Martin Baker.	Amos Griffith.
Samuel Castner.	Joseph Griffith.
Abraham Dannelhower.	Daniel Hoffman.
Jacob Dilcart.	Abraham Hoffman.
Christian Dilcart.	Benjamin Harry.
John Dilcart.	Jacob Hiesler.
Thomas Deary.	Rees Harry.
Jacob Hoot.	William Maris.
Humphrey Hughes.	Rees Roberts.
Robert Hoffman.	George Roberts.
George Heist.	Christopher Snyder.
Isaac Hubbs.	Jacob Smith.
Levi Jenkins.	William Slutter.
John Jenkins.	Joseph Shoemaker.
Jacob Johnson.	Philip Stillwaggon.
Evan Jones.	Christian Stump.
Henry Knipe.	William Springer.

Melchoir Kriebel.
George Lutz.
Isaac Lewis.
Joseph Lewis.
William Lowery.
Job Lukens.
George Maris.

Alexander Scout.
Thomas These.
Jacob Weant.
William Williams.
John Williams.
Jacob Wismer.
Samuel Wheeler.
Abraham Wolford.

It is only possible now to trace the personality of but a portion of these militiamen of the Revolution. Some of the family names have entirely disappeared from the township. Of the others, the following paragraphs relate something:

Captain Stephen Bloom was of German extraction. He was a well known blacksmith and had his shop opposite the toll gate now kept by Margaret Rhoads on the banks of the Wissahickon.

Mathias Boas, also a German, and ancestor of numerous descendants, lived on the hill top, now the home of Jacob Zebley, within the town of North Wales.

Barnet Beaver, son of John Beaver, was then a young man of twenty-one and had bought the present Schall mill property in 1775.

Martin Baker, or Becker, was a German Lutheran, and one of the trustees to whom was conveyed the lot whereon the Old Yellow church was erected. In 1776 he bought a farm of 58 acres of the estate of Samuel Moseman, comprising lands now owned by Charles S. Jenkins and others, half a mile south of Lansdale.

Abraham Dannehower, the American ancestor of those bearing that name in this part of the county, lived in the same stone house now owned by George Dannehower, near the Rhoads toll gate. In 1762 he had bought a farm of 148 acres along the Wissahickon of David Cumming.

Samuel Castner lived a mile south of North Wales, near the Railroad tunnel, on farm later owned by George Castner.

Jacob Dilcart owned a property now within the borough of North Wales. One John Dilcart held a small farm on the Morris road above Heebner's corner.

Hugh Evans belonged to the numerous Welsh family of that name, which settled all central Gwynedd. It is not feasible to place his residence. He was probably a young man.

The Erwins lived on the edge of the township, west of Gwnedd station.

Caleb Foulke was a Quaker and had a farm just north of Friends Corner, latterly the home of Jonathan Lukens, deceased.

Two Griffiths are here mentioned. They belong to a Welsh Quaker family that were among the earliest settlers of the northern part of the township. The original homestead of Evan Griffith, was the Cresson place. Amos Griffith, one of his sons, is supposed to have lived at this time where Jesse Snyder now does, near the Towamencin creamery. This farm he sold in 1781 to George Boone. Joseph Griffith lived on the premises now George Snyder's, west of Gwynedd Square.

The Hoffman's were of German stock and owned the present farms of Charles Loch and Seth Lukens, south of Lansdale, along the railroad. This tract had previously belonged to the Welsh family of Harry or Harris.

Jacob Heisler was an innkeeper, who obtained the present Kneeder hotel property in 1764 by marriage to Magdalena, widow of John Beaver. His life was long, lasting till 1821, reaching eighty-two.

The Harry's here mentioned, lived along the Wissahickon. They owned the farms, one of which is now owned by Frank Johnson, and the other occupied by George Dotts, the latter being the homestead. They were Welsh Quakers. Rees Harry died in 1789. His father bore the same name. Benjamin Harry, of the third generation, was his son, who held the property till his death in 1810.

The Hoots were of German extraction, and held the present Burnside and Kriebel farms in the west corner of the township. Philip Hoot bought 225 acres in 1768. Jacob was one of his sons who removed to Union county. The Kriebel farm was the homestead. Ellwood Hoot, Esq., of West Point, is a decendent of this family.

Jacob Brown was probably the son of Catherine Brown, who bought a lot of eleven acres in 1770 at the east corner of Heebnerville, of the estate of Christopher Newman. She held this for over thirty years.

George Heist lived on the premises now occupied by James Cardell, on the banks of Evans' Run below North Wales. This was long known as Heist's tavern.

Humphrey Hughes belonged to the Welsh family of that name in Towamencin, and may have lived in Gwynedd at that time.

The Jenkins family lived within the present Lansdale borough, and owned much surrounding land in Hatfield, Montgomery and Gwynedd. Levi Jenkins lived in the southwest part of the borough limits.

The Johnson family had the present Beam farm, east of Gwynedd Square, from 1753 to 1784.

Evan Jones, here mentioned, may have been the owner of the present Moore farm in Montgomery township on the North Wales road.

The Knipe family first appeared in Gwynedd in 1763, when John Knipe bought the later Johnson farm, a mile east of North Wales. We cannot give the residence of Henry Knipe at the time of the Revolution.

Melchior Kriebel was the name of a Schwenkfelter preacher, and we may be sure that he did no fighting. He lived at the present Rittenhouse farm in the west corner of the township. He came over in 1734 and lived till 1790. He had a son Melchoir, who inherited the plantation, and was also a preacher.

The Loweries were of Scottish stock and ancestors of the present Lowery family.

The Lewis family were Welsh people who owned a great tract on both sides of the Wissahickon, south of West Point. They lived at the present Thomas homestead.

Job Lukens owned the present Kenderdine property in the borough of North Wales. It was then but a small property of 15 acres.

George Maris was the most extensive property owner in the township. He lived at the present Acuff hotel house from 1755 to 1803. He was rich and a Quaker and we may be sure that he paid his fines like a man.

The Roberts family were Welsh and extensive landholders in Colonial times. They lived at their homestead one-fourth of a mile west of the Acuff or Lukens hotel, where there are very old buildings remaining. Dr. David Land, a veterinary surgeon, is the present occupant.

Christian Snyder was the son of Heinrich Snyder, a German emigrant who came to Gwynedd in 1753 and bought the later Amos Jones property at West Point.

Jacob Smith was a German who came from Milford, Bucks county, and bought the present Bowman farm, east of North Wales, in 1763, which the family retained till 1791.

Joseph Shoemaker was a Quaker. He was then a young man, and afterwards bought the present Dickinson farm on the Wissahickon, where he had a saw mill.

William Springer lived near White's Corner, in Towamensin. He was a wheelwright from Gwynedd, where in 1764 he bought the late Bower farm on the Allentown road of Rowland Edwards. This he sold in 1774, and probably had returned to Gwynedd when this militia company was enrolled.

The Scouts was a German family, known to have lived in Upper Dublin and Lower Gwynedd. It is not known where was the residence of Alexander Scout at this time.

Jacob Wismer held the later Swartley farm, now included within the borough of North Wales.

Samuel Wheeler held the present Mumbower mill on the Wissahickon.

A Williams family lived near the Gwynedd line in Montgomery township, below the Catholic church. John Williams held a farm there at the time of the Revolution.

E. M.

LOCAL HISTORY.

The Old Wentz Mill, Worcester—The Van Fossen Farm and Mills at Centre Point.

At Centre Point to the westward of the cross roads are two dwellings and a grist mill. These are owned by Josiah Van Fossen and J. M. Rittenhouse. The mill is propelled by water drawn through a race course from the Zachariah creek, which here runs westward. The present owner, Mr. Rittenhouse, has added steam as a propelling power. The premises are in a secluded position, considering the near proximity of two great highways of travel.

This is one of the older mill sites in Montgomery county. Here was the old Wentz mill of Colonial times. The time of the erection of the first mill is unknown, but it was doubtless long before the Revolution. The Wentz family were originally very large landholders in central Worcester, occupying all the land about Centre Point and northeastward of the same. This is a small tract of 644 acres conveyed by Clement Plumstead and Samuel Powell to Peter Wentz in 1729. We have no space in this connection to give an account of Peter Wentz. Suffice it to say that by his will of 1745, his son Philip inherited 221 acres lying hereabouts. The latter built the mill soon after. His ownership continued through the long period of forty years, or until the close of the Revolution. In 1784, when he had become an old man, Philip Wentz sold his mill with a lot of nine acres and a farm of sixty acres to Henry Pennypacker for the sum of £1114. A grist mill is mentioned in the deed. At a later date a clover mill and an oil mill were added. During the next ten years the owners were temporary. In 1785, Pennypacker sold to Dewalt Beiber (Beaver). Seven years later another transfer made John Beiber the owner, and finally in 1794, the latter sold to Nicholas Martin.

Martin remained the owner for twenty years. In 1812 he sold to Frederick Conrad, a celebrated man of his time, politician, Congressman, Justice and County Prothonotary. He lived near the present Worcester creamery.

In 1828, Conrad being deceased, his administrators sold to John Boileau. In 1832 Jacob Beyer bought the mill and 43 acres, who, the same year transferred to Michael Van Fossen. The latter was of a family which have long been in Worcester, and were of Hollander origin. By the date of Van Fossen's purchase the buildings had become much dilapidated. He rebuilt the mill and dwelling and much improved the property.

He carried on milling here and owned the farm for a lifetime. In his will of

1805 four children are mentioned: Charlotte, wife of Amos Shutt; Eli Joseph and Jacob, all of whom were made executors with directions to sell the property. This was done in 1866, when Charles Hendricks took the mill and fifty-five acres for \$7560, and immediately transferred the farm to Jacob Van Fossen, and the mill and a lot of ten acres to Amos Shutt. The latter died a few years ago and the mill is now owned by his son-in-law, J. M. Rittenhouse. The farm has come into possession of Josiah Van Fossen, which family have thus held possession for three generations, or sixty-three years.

E. M.

LOCAL HISTORY.

The Frick Homestead and Family, Hatfield. Peter Frick, the Immigrant. The Frick Graveyard. John King and his Exploits.

The former Frick homestead is about half a mile southwest of Line Lexington. The lands attached are mostly level, or meadow like in character, and lie on both sides of the brook, anciently called Beaver Creek, a branch of the Neshaminy, rising in Hilltown. On the southwest side of that stream abrupt bluffs arise, leading to much higher ground. The present dwelling near the creek, presents a modern appearance, though the western portion is said to be very old—perhaps built by Peter Frick, the founder of the family. The eastern half is of brick, and at least seventy-five years old. A cross road, running to the Cowpath, bounds this property on the northwest side. It is now owned by John K. Clymer. The farm has been much curtailed in size since Colonial times. When the Morris farm was detached in 1745, there was left 85 acres, but additions may have been made by Peter Frick or his predecessors.

The first settler here bought in 1739 of Ebenezer Kinnersly, a large land holder or speculator. His name was Benjamin Rosenberger, a German immigrant, who held 125 acres, including also the present Morris farm, these having its northeast front on the county line. This site near a spring and a flowing stream was the most natural one for a first settler to select for his habitation. Rosenberger staid here but a few years, however, selling in 1744 to a Welshman, named David Rowland. The latter was the owner for more than a quarter of a century. In 1745, the Morris property was detached by its sale to James Hunter, a storekeeper, who bought forty acres of John Rosen-

berger, son of Benjamin. In 1765, Rowland sold to Adam Smith. The latter was but a temporary owner, as, soon after 1765 he sold to Peter Frick. The Frick family were thereafter the owners for just about a century, or down to 1867.

PETER FRICK.

The deed to Peter Frick is not on record. Tradition says he came from Germany in 1750, when a boy of fourteen, which would make the time of his birth in 1736. He remained here a life time, including the Revolutionary period and the remainder of the century. After the sale of the Morris property there remained a long, narrow strip on the northwest side of the latter reaching northeast to the county line, and which continues to be possessed by the Frick's. to this day, being now owned by John Frick.

We know nothing of the personality of Peter Frick. He was a Mennonite, and doubtless lies buried in the graveyard across the brook, though there is no tombstone bearing his name. The first name of his wife was Catharine. The names of Peter Frick and Michael Frick, his brother, are in the Hatfield list of taxables for 1792.

THE FRICK GRAVEYARD.

This spot on the southwest side of the creek, was not taken from the original Frick plantation, as may be supposed. The ground had belonged to Jacob Shooter, who lived at the later Lewis Martin place. In a deed of 1776, granting a long, narrow strip to George Shive, mention is made of it. It was only 544 feet wide but four-fifths of a mile long. At the close of the deed is a paragraph mentioning a small plot, "on the southwest side of this tract, which is included between a small gutt and Beaver Creek, which the said Jacob Shooter hath before this time granted for a burying ground to the society called Mennonites, with the privilege of a road along the line from the west corner of said tract to the said burying ground." The old burying ground remains a graveyard to this day, where are the tombstones of many families, common to the township now. Among these are those of Erick, Wireman, Rosenberger, Ruth, King, Detwiler and Allebach. How long this plot was detached before the Revolution we can only guess.

THE WILL OF PETER FRICK.

The death of Peter Frick took place in 1812, when he was seventy six years of age. His will was made July 15, 1808. It is quite peculiar in its wording, and evidently not the composition of a Justice or a lawyer. We give its main provisions. His son John was to have the homestead if he would pay out £425. If not, the other son Michael, was to have it. No other children are mentioned. All the money legacies went to nephews and nieces, children of his brothers John and Michael.

By this, it appears that there were at least three Frick brothers who came to America. The legacies were nine, viz: To Jacob, who got £100; Peter, £94; John, £88; Henry, £82; Samuel, £76 and Anna £70. His brother Michael's children were Peter, who got £85; and Peggy, £70; Jacob £70. The whimsical and minute varying of the amount given to each legatee, is peculiar, at least. These amounts together with the plantation indicate that the testator had been a thrifty man, and had amassed considerable property for a farmer in those times.

JOHN FRICK, SR.

John Frick, son of Peter, had been born on the homestead in November, 1768. The name of his wife was Catharine, born in March, 1768. He remained here during a long life, but in 1837, he sold the farm to his son John for \$4100, conveying to him 97 acres in four pieces. One of these, however, was in another part of Hatfield, leaving 85 acres in the homestead, which extended southwest to a road. Among his children were Peter, John, Rebecca, and perhaps others. Peter was born March 18, 1798 and died September 4, 1881; John was born July 15, 1800, and died February 13, 1884; Rebecca died in 1845, in her 45th year.

The wife of the second John Frick was named Frany, or Fronica, born in 1813. Her death took place in 1848. His son Peter lived on the west side of the Ne shaming and on the northwest side of the cross road. This lot had been bought in 1795 by Peter Frick of the earlier King estate. It is now the property of Abraham Ziegler.

A TALE OF ARSON AND ROBBERY.

About the year 1842 the barn on the property of Peter Frick was set on fire by a noted local criminal named John King, then a young man, living with his mother at Kulpville. The purpose of King was the robbery of the house of John Frick down at the homestead during the commotion created by the fire. The elder John Frick, then an old man, was known to keep much money about his premises. This was at a time when there was less confidence in banks than now. It happened, however, that Frick had anticipated the chances of such a robbery. He had a high opinion of a neighbor, Mrs. Rachel Morris, a devout Baptist lady, who kept a store on the present premises of her grandson, Oliver G. Morris. Frick had his money secreted under some rags in the garret of the Morris house. King might not have got it anyhow, as he was detected after getting within the house and was rumaging the drawers in the second story. He escaped by jumping on the porch roof and thence to the ground. He fired off his pistols to deter pursuit. The immediate motive of the attempted robbery was his desire to marry the daughter of Philip Sorver, a Skippackville merchant. Old Sorver asked him what were his expectations about going into business. King replied that he had no money now, but

soon would have a supply.

The mother of King had some money, and said she would spend \$1000 to keep her son out of jail. She hired a good lawyer, and the jury failed to convict, owing to doubt about his identification. Emboldened by his good luck in escaping justice, King next broke into Philip Sorver's store one night and secured and secreted a considerable quantity of goods. He was defended by Sylvester N. Rich. This time the jury was not so lenient, and he was convicted. His sentence was seven years in the Eastern Penitentiary. King served his time and when he got out he came back to Kulpville, and ungratefully stole his mother's silver spoons. He thenceforth disappeared and was never heard of afterwards. After his imprisonment he revealed that a portion of the booty secured by the store robbery was concealed beneath a hollow stump; and there, sure enough, it was found. Among his criminal exploits was the snapping of a loaded pistol at Mary Eaverhart, which if it had went off as intended, would have cost the woman her life. She is now a resident of North Wales, the widow of Benjamin Van Fossen.

Samuel Frick, another son of John Frick, senior, removed to Hilltown, and was the ancestor of the family in that township. There is a post office of that name, and where Benjamin Frick, his yet son, resides.

Jacob and Henry, two other brothers, removed to Richland township, Bucks county, and left descendants. Among these is Charles E. Frick, of Philadelphia.

Peter Frick, above mentioned, or the second of that name, had sons Oliver and George. The last went to Dakota. Oliver married Elizabeth Ott, and died in Philadelphia.

The second John Frick had a large family. These were as follows: Sarah, wife of Benjamin Rosenberger, now of Philadelphia. Among their children were John and Allan, now in the grocery business, Germantown; Lizzie became the wife of Oliver Althouse, now keeping hotel at Souderton. There were also Mary, Amanda and Ida, wife of Lincoln Kaler.

Sophia married Levi Godshalk and resides in Philadelphia, where they have a family.

Mary married Henry Rosenberger, of Hatfield, a minister among the River Brethren.

Levi died when 12 years of age.

Farneis, heretofore mentioned, died in 1866, the last Frick owner of the homestead.

Amanda became the wife of Samuel Kulp.

Catharine married Henry Delp.

Emma married Joseph Bergey.

John married Lydia Crouthamel, and now resides on part of the original Frick farm, which fronts the county line above Line Lexington.

Aaron married Susanna Godshalk. Matilda, the youngest, became the wife of John Erney.

SAMUEL FRICK.

Samuel, another son of John Frick, Sr., was the ancestor of the Hilltown branch. He died in that township about 1891. He married Mary Landis. His children were Benjamin, John, George L. and Nancy. Of these Benjamin married Margaretta Funk, and Susanna Hedrick for his second wife. John married Susanna Swartley. George married Matilda Weaver. Nancy remained unmarried.

Of these descendants of Samuel Frick, Francis, son of John, has the store and post office in Hilltown, known as "Frick's." Isabella became the wife of James Hartzell, of Chalfont. Sallie, another daughter of John Frick, married Theodore Hartzell, postmaster and merchant at Colmar, whilst Jacob remained single.

The children of Benjamin Frick were Samuel, Henry H. and George. Of these, Henry has the job printing office in Hilltown, near the Frick store.

George L. Frick had a son Wellington, who married Ella Baker, of North Wales, and now living in Lansdale.

THE FRICK HOMESTEAD.

Francis Frick, born in 1837, obtained the homestead of his father in 1862. This he held till his death in 1866. The next year his administrators conveyed the property to Charles Craig for \$4887, and the Frick ownership ended. It remains briefly to trace succeeding transfers: 1870 Sheriff John M. Hunsieker to Thomas Highley; 1870, Highley, to Joseph Crowson; 1874, Sheriff Larzalere to Highley again; 1884, Highley, then removed to Lower Providence, sold sixty acres to John K. Clymer, the present owner.

E. M.

LOCAL HISTORY.

The Farm of John S. Heebner, Upper Gwynedd—Peter Wells—The Seipt Lot.

The name Heebner is quite common in several townships of Montgomery county, and originated in the Schwenkfelder of 1734. The homestead of John S. Heebner lies towards the western corner of Gwynedd, about half a mile east of Locust Corner. The fine farm buildings are on a meadow bank near a cross road that runs from the Morris road to the Sumneytown turnpike. The farm lands are either level or slope towards the northwest, whither a rivulet flows towards the Towamencin creek. The present dwelling was erected by Henry Heebner in 1816, succeeding an inferior

house of log or stone, farther down the meadow. Modern improvements and a French roof have been added in recent years.

Here has been a human habitation for 170 years. In Colonial days it was the homestead of Peter Wells for over fifty years, or from 1724 to 1775. This is a part of the 250 acres, which in 1712 William John sold to John Griffith, or the south quarter of a tract which covered the whole western corner of Gwynedd down to the cross road passing Zieber's. Griffith obtained this wild land for the nominal figure of five shillings. By the date of 1723 Griffith had probably made some improvements, for he then sold the same to Evan Roberts for £90. The next year Roberts sold off the lower or southeast side of the tract, comprising 150 acres, to Peter Wells for £65, 16 shillings. This comprised the present Heebner farm, the Seipt lot and the farm of M. M. Schultz.

Concerning Wells, who lived here from a young man to be an old man, we know nothing of his personality. His name is an English one, though we find no mention of him among the records of the Quakers. In 1776, at the beginning of the Revolution, he sold the whole 150 acres to Philip Hoot, who appeared to be land hungry, for he had large farms elsewhere.

The boundaries then given were: "Beginning in a line of land formerly belonging to Peter Llewellyn, now Philip Hoot's; then by same southwest 169 perches; thence northwest by formerly Coxe's land, now David Kriebel's and Jacob Weber's (Worcester line) 149 perches; thence northeast 169 perches by land of Melchoir Kriebel; thence southeast 142 perches by land of Evan Griffith."

Philip Hoot probably never lived here, as his home was elsewhere, at the later Charles Kriebel place. In 1785, he cut this plantation in two pieces, selling the southwest side to his son, Garret Hoot, and in 1787 his son John Hoot sold the northeast side to Conrad Gearhart. The southwest side, or Heebner place, was immediately transferred to Henry Conrad for £500. The latter was the father of Frederick Conrad, politician, Prothonotary and Congressman. In 1796, a more permanent owner, in the person of George Moser, came in possession. His death occurred about 1805. His will ordered the sale of the property, and left a dower of £400 in the same to his widow Margaret. This widow, Margaret Moser, lived for many years thereafter, so that she reached the great age of 105 years. She was doubtless the oldest person in Montgomery county at the time of her death.

The farm has now been in possession of the Heebner family since 1807, when Peter Moser, of Douglass, and Christopher Moser, of Gwynedd, executors of

George Moser sold to Henry Heebner, who greatly improved the same. Here the present owner, John S. Heebner, was born in 1922, and has since become one of the wealthiest men of the township.

THE SEIPT LOT.

This lot on the Morris road has been detached for almost a century. It was in 1797 that George Moser, sold off ten acres of unimproved land along the the Morris road to Philip Laver for £61. This lot did not reach down to the cross road, but left a piece of six acres, belonging to the Moser farm, at the north corner at Heebnerville. Laver proceeded to build a house on his lot, and lived there till 1812 when he sold to Levi Drake, a Hatfield blacksmith. The latter only owned it two years, selling in 1814 to David Heebner for \$1200. The latter built the older part of the present house in 1821, and remained the owner until his death in 1848, after which the Court confirmed title to his son Jacob Kriebel. The latter sold to Frederick Bucheimer in 1850. Many years later in 1872, Bucheimer rebuilt or remodelled the house. Finally in 1886 his son Samuel Bucheimer sold the property to a near relative George B. Seipt. E. M.

From,

Pottstown Pa

Date,

May 5

FOUR SCORE YEARS OLD.

The Borough of Pottstown Chartered 80 Years Ago, To-day.

Brief Sketch of the Town in its Early Days—Facts of Interest to the Present Generation—Its Growth in Eight Decades.

Pottstown is 80 years old to-day, the act passed by the Legislature of Pennsylvania incorporating the town as a borough having been approved by Governor Simon Snyder on the 6th of February, 1815. The question of obtaining a borough charter was first agitated and discussed four or five years before that date, but there was considerable opposition to the measure, on account of a supposed increase of taxes. But finally the "borough charter" party were victorious. Before it became a borough Pottsgrove was the name of the town, but the act of incorporation gave it the rather more pretentious title of Pottstown. The name of the post-office was "Pottsgrove" until January 28th, 1829, when it was also changed to "Pottstown." At Pottstown the first post-office in Montgomery county was established, in October, 1793; Norristown was second, established in 1799. But as to age as a borough, Norristown is the senior of Pottstown, having been chartered March 31st, 1812.

The area of Pottstown when incorporated was 327 acres, all taken from Pottsgrove township. [Since its enlargement, in 1888, it contains over eight times that extent of territory, 2695 acres.] The population of Pottstown in 1815, did not exceed 450, and the number of votes polled at the first elec-



POTTSTOWN 80 YEARS AGO.

tion was about 70. Jacob Drinkhouse was postmaster when the place was incorporated in 1815. He held the office from July 1, 1808, to April 1st, 1818. Postmaster Drinkhouse was a soldier of the Revolution, was with Washington's army (as was his father also) and witnessed the execution of Major Andre. He represented Montgomery county in the Legislature, was a magistrate some time, and outlived all other soldiers of the war for American Independence from Pottstown. His death took place in October, 1857, in his 97th year, and he sleeps in the old burial ground of Zion's Reformed Church.

The first Burgess of Pottstown was Robert McClintock. He was a merchant and lived and kept store at the corner of High and Hanover streets, where J. A. Bunting's hat store is now located. The Town Councilmen, chosen at the first borough election, in April, 1815, were John Hiester, Jacob Lesher, William Lesher, Jesse Ives, Henry Boyer, William Mintzer and Thomas P. May. John Hiester was chosen President of Town Council and Edward Stiles, Clerk. Of the Councilmen, Gen. John Hiester, who had been in the revolutionary army, lived retired, in a house which stood at the north-west corner of High and Hanover streets, on the site where Henry G. Knip's building, (formerly John C. Smith's) is now located; Jacob Lesher, retired, lived at the north-east corner of High and Manatawny streets, now owned by M. D. Evans, Esq., and wife, which house Mr. Lesher built; Thomas P. May was a school teacher and lived in the old stone house (Bottonwood hotel), formerly located at the north-east corner of High and Washington sts., where Porter's drug store now stands; William Lesher, who had been a merchant, tavern-keeper and butcher, lived in the old Dr. VanBuskirk building, where Jacob Fegely's fine mansion now stands; Henry Boyer, (great-grandfather of John H. and James F. Boyer,) lived in the brick dwelling at the north-east corner of High and York streets, now Willman & Lorah's store; Jesse Ives, a mill owner and miller, (father of the late Mrs. Charles Rutter,) lived in the stone house long occupied by the Rutter family, 72 South Hanover street; William Mintzer, merchant and stage proprietor, (father of Frederick S. Mintzer, of Philadelphia and of the late Henry, William and Joseph Mintzer, of Pottstown,) lived in a house which stood on the premises now owned by A. G. Saylor, 214 High street. Edward Stiles was a school teacher, and taught "subscription school" in an old frame building at the south-east corner of Walnut and Penn streets, where St. Paul's Ref. Church now stands.

Henry Arms, who died about fifteen years ago, aged 87 years, was the last survivor of the citizens of Pottstown who voted at the first borough election in Pottstown, in April, 1815. He was the father of the late Prof. John W. Arms, of Pottstown. There are only two persons now living in Pottstown, who resided here in 1815, and who are old enough to recollect

anything about events of that time. They are Julia Thompson, aged 90, who resides with her relatives, the family of J. H. Maxwell, Esq., 152 High street, and Catharine Carpenter, aged about 87, living with her son, William L. Carpenter, 331 Cherry street.

The public improvements in Pottstown in 1815 were few and far between. The first was the stone bridge on High street, west of Manatawny street, known as "Manatawny Bridge," built by Montgomery county—commenced in 1802 and completed in 1805, at a cost of \$35,000. It was considered a very fine specimen of masonry—few superior in the State. Toll was taken thereon several years, to defray the cost of erection. The first toll-keeper was James Jack, who was succeeded by John Todd, afterwards member of the Legislature and sheriff. He was father of Dr. John Todd and C. W. Brooke Todd, of this borough. There was a library in town belonging to the Pottstown Library Company, chartered by the Legislature, Aug. 29, 1810. By acts of the Legislature of Feb. 13, 1810 and March 20th, 1810, the Perkiomen and Reading Turnpike Company was chartered. The pike was commenced in 1811 and completed in 1815. The Schuylkill Canal was commenced in 1815 and completed in 1818.

In 1815 and for many years previous to that date, and probably for two years thereafter, until the construction of the canal dams, shad and rock-fish were caught in considerable numbers, in the Schuylkill at Pottstown and higher up the stream. It is known that in one season 2792 shad were taken and in another 3701 were caught at the Pottstown fisheries. Seines were used, the fishermen starting in with boats some distance above where the Hanover street bridge now stands, sweeping their nets down to opposite Charlotte street, where they were drawn out at a wharf, or landing, full, no doubt, of the big, silvery fish.

At the time Pottstown was chartered as a borough, there were four hotels in the place, a brewery, distillery, three or four wool hat factories, two grist mills, post-office, a weaver's shop, two blacksmith shops and a few other small establishments which gave employment to the people. There were two houses of religious worship—the old Brick Church (now Zion's Reformed) and the Friends' meeting-house on King street. The hotels were the "Rising Sun," on the corner of High and York streets, where the coal office of Metz & Leaf now stands; the "Red Lion," located at the south-east corner of High and Manatawny streets, on the premises owned by Samuel S. Danb; the Farmers' Hotel, on the site of the Shuler House and the fourth at south-east corner of High and Hanover streets, now D. H. Keim's store. The town in 1815 contained some sixty or seventy dwellings.

Some of the old houses built in Pottstown previous to 1815, still standing in the place

are the following:—The old Potts mansion, now called Mill Park, erected by John Potts, in 1753-4; a portion of the house at the corner of High and York streets, now owned by A. K. Lorah and occupied by Willman & Lorah's store, built by John Potts, between 1760 and 1767; the house now occupied as the office of the Pottstown Iron Company, built by Thomas Rutter, before the revolution; a portion of the building, corner of High and Hanover streets, now occupied by the store of D. H. Keim, built by John Potts, Jr., before the revolution; the house now occupied by Annie E. Richards, said to have been erected previous to 1794; the old log house, a story and a half high, standing in the rear of the residence of Mrs. Elizabeth Casselberry, 243 High street, built over a hundred years ago; the houses occupied by Mrs. Mary H. Davies and Mrs. J. S. Yost, both on High street, built by Joseph Potts, previous to the year 1800; the house occupied by Mrs. Leana Daub, 321 High street, built by Mr. Kleckner, previous to 1800, and several others, which we have not space at present to mention.

In 1815, soon after the incorporation of Pottstown as a borough, the "bold soldier boys" who had served in the "War of 1812," came home, a treaty of peace having been signed by "Johnny Bull" and "Uncle Sam," after three years' fighting. To this war Pottstown sent the "Pottsgrove Light Infantry," commanded by Capt. Peter Hanley, (grandfather of William, Eaglebert and Arthur Hanley,) with Christopher Shaner as First Lieutenant; Solomon Bastrass, Second Lieutenant and Wilder Bivens, Orderly Sergeant. A number of young men from the place joined Capt. Keim's company, of Reading, and Capt. William Brooke's company, from Limerick.

A great many other historical facts and matters of interest in regard to Pottstown in 1815, the year it became a borough, might be given with this article. But we have, perhaps, said enough to give the town a birthday "send off," on reaching the age of four-score years. It would not be inappropriate, perhaps, for Chief Burgess Eck, or somebody else, to give the place a "birthday party" in honor of the anniversary of to-day, but we presume it did not occur to any of our borough officials to do so. Twenty years hence, on the 6th of February, 1915, will be another anniversary for the town, and then, when the first century of the borough has been completed, there should be and doubtless will be, such a "centennial jubilee," given, as will duly commemorate that important event.

From, Press

Philad Pa

Date, July 17/98

When the 100th anniversary of the departure of the American army from the Winter camp at Valley Forge was celebrated with imposing ceremonies on June 19, 1879, the orator of the day was the late Henry Armitt Brown, a young man whose talents were splendid and whose career in public life promised years crowned with distinction and usefulness. Although but 35, he was one of the most gifted orators in this community, and his address at Valley Forge was probably his masterpiece. He died from the effects of a cold contracted on this day, and another martyr was added to the role of patriots that had found earthly immortality in this Montgomery County vale. It is fitting to quote from this oration of Henry Armitt Brown a few of the thoughts that this historic region called to him on this memory fraught anniversary day. He is describing the scene in Philadelphia, where the British army holds high carnival.

"The time for the evening parade comes, and the well-equipped regiments are drawn up in line, while slowly to the strains of martial music the sun sinks in flaming splendor in the west. The streets are soon in shadow, but still noisy with the tramping of soldiers and the clatter of arms. In High Street and on the commons, fires are lit for the troops to do their cooking, and the noises of the camp mingle with the city's hum. Most of the houses are shut, but here and there one stands wide open, while brilliantly dressed officers lounge at the windows or pass and repass in the doorway. The sound of laughter and music is heard, and the brightly lit windows of the London Coffee House and the Indian Queen tell of the parties that are celebrating there the event they think so glorious, and thus, amid sounds of revelry, the night falls on the Quaker City.

"What matters it to Sir William Howe and his victorious army if rebels be starving and their ragged currency be almost worthless? Here is gold and plenty of good cheer. What whether they threaten to attack the British lines or disperse through the impoverished country in search of food? The ten redoubts that stretch from Fairmount to Cohocksink Creek are stout and strongly manned, the river is open, and supplies and reinforcements are on the way from England. What if the earth be wrinkled with frost? The houses of Philadelphia are snug and warm. Here are mirth and music and dancing and wine, and women and play, and the pageants of a riotous capital! And so with feasting and with revelry let the Winter wear away!"

THE CONTRASTING PICTURE.

Then another picture all sombre-hued and gray comes before the view.

"The wind is cold and piercing on the old Gulf Road, and the snow-flakes have begun to fall. Who is this that tolls up yonder hill, his footsteps stained with blood? On his shoulder he carries a rusty gun, and the hand that grasps the stock is blue with cold. His comrade is no better off, nor he who fol-

lows, for both are barefoot, and the ruts of the rough country road are deep and frozen hard. A fourth comes into view, and still another. A dozen are in sight. Twenty have reached the ridge, and there are more to come. See them as they mount the hill that slopes eastward into the great valley. A thousand are in sight, but they are but the vanguard of the motley company that winds down the road until it is lost in the cloud of snow-flakes that have hidden the Gulf hills. Yonder are horsemen in tattered uniforms, and behind them cannon lumbering slowly over the frozen road, half dragged, half pushed by men. They who appear to be in authority have coats of every make and color. Here is one in a faded blue, faced with buckskin that has once been buff; there is another on a tall, gaunt horse, wrapped in a sort of dressing-gown made of an old blanket or woolen bedcover. A few of the men wear long linen hunting-shirts reaching to the knee, but of the rest no two are dressed alike—not half have shirts, a third are barefoot, many are in rags. Nor are their arms the same. Cow-horns and tin boxes they carry for want of pouches. A few have swords, fewer still bayonets. Muskets, carbines, fowling-pieces and rifles are to be seen together side by side.

"Are these soldiers that huddle together and bow their heads as they face the biting wind? Is this an army that comes straggling through the valley in the blinding snow? No martial music leads them in triumph into a captured capital; no city full of good cheer and warm and comfortable homes awaits their coming; no sound keeps time to their weary steps save the icy wind rattling the leafless branches and the dull tread of their weary feet on the frozen ground. In yonder forest must they find their shelter, and on the northern slope of these inhospitable hills their place of refuge. Perils shall soon assault them more threatening than any they have encountered under the windows of Chew's house or by the banks of Brandywine. Trials that rarely have failed to break the fortitude of men await them here.

"False friends shall endeavor to undermine their virtue, and secret enemies to shake their faith—the Congress whom they serve shall prove helpless to protect them, and their country herself seem unmindful of their suffering; cold shall share their habitation and hunger enter in and be their constant guest; disease shall infest their huts by day and famine stand guard with them through the night; frost shall lock their camp with icy fetters, and the snow cover it as with a garment; the storms of Winter shall be pitiless—but all in vain. Danger shall not frighten, nor temptation have power to seduce them. Doubt shall not shake their love of country, nor suffering overcome their fortitude. The powers of evil shall not prevail against them, for they are the Continental Army, and these are the hills of Valley Forge."

SUMMER AND WINTER.

These words that ring like a bugle call, thrill with the spirit of Valley Forge a century and more ago. The steep slopes of those shadowy hills, the

stream that dances laughter-laden, through the narrow valley, and the errant clouds that smile at their reflections in the quiet pools, give an atmosphere of pastoral peace and beauty in the Summer time to Valley Forge. All the steeps are green and rank with the freshness of the foliage and the undergrowth is like a carpet unrolled by nature's tender hand to hide the traces of war, and smooth out with her all-effacing touch the mounds and hollows that tell silently of sorrow and suffering. The lofty hills, the vistas of skies and meadows and water, all of the sights and sounds of languorous Summer time make Valley Forge too beautiful then to impress the visitor with aught of gloom or sadness.

In the dead of Winter it is as though nature's varying mood had changed to brooding over the good and brave who suffered and sickened and died on the hills of Valley Forge. The scanty sunshine finds its way but a little while through the day into the gorge of Valley Creek, and one or the other of the opposing hills is always deeply shadowed. The solemn ranks of fir trees that cover their rock-ribbed sides are black and mysterious against the snow and the silence that wraps the undulating crests is seldom broken but by the shriek of a hawk or the far-off bay of a hound. No roar of wheels and hum of labor comes from the little village that sleeps at the mouth of the valley. Gray stone mills that once gave work to hundreds of toilers have been deserted for many years, and the rows of crumbling tenements on the hills nearby are windowless and empty. The towering chimneys lean like the tower of Pisa and seem about to fall into a comfortable resting place. The water wheels are rusting by the dam, and the flow falls drowsily over its crest always refraining a lullaby that chords with the monotone of the wind-swept forest all about.

Small wonder that the farmers' families of the region tell tales among themselves of the spirits of Continental soldiers that walk abroad when the moon is dark and the storm sweeps through the black defiles of Mount Joy and Mount Misery. Ghostly sentinels pace the vaguely marked redoubts, in faded blue and buff, and sometimes the shriek of fife and the roll of drums seems to echo with elfin faintness from the parade ground, where the plow has sheared its crumbling way for more than a century.

IN THE TRACK OF THE BLIZZARD.

The recent storm left Valley Forge in rare guise for the writer and artist who plunged through its drifted snows a week ago. Imagination was not called upon to picture the country as it looked that Winter that made it immortal. Ragged soldiers and rows of log huts were all these hillsides needed to restore the Winter landscape of 1777-78. Many of the country roads had not been opened, and shifting drifts blockaded nearly all but the road that winds up the valley, where the sheltering hills protected the low land between them. But the slopes that face the Schuylkill and Philadelphia, where the village of huts and the garrisoned redoubts lay, felt the fury of the blizzard, and the snow was piled in tempest-tossed heaps and windrows as



FORT WASHINGTON.

high as a man's head, wherever an obstruction gave it foothold. This was the sort of weather that the Continental army faced, and Valley Forge lay in its bleakness and Wintry solitude as when the tattered flag of the new nation fluttered from yonder low mound.

Of course the first and chief place of interest visited is the old Potts' house, in the village known as the Washington headquarters. The house is near the mouth of Valley Creek, which flows north into the Schuylkill on the west bank. The Schuylkill flowing from the Blue Hills, bends here toward the east, where the current is rapid and the banks steep. The Valley Creek cuts its way through a deep defile at right angles to the river, forming a natural boundary on the west. The hill called Mount Joy, at the entrance of this defile, throws out a spur, which, running parallel to the river about a mile, turns at length northward and meets its banks. On the side toward the city this ridge encloses a rolling tableland, and upon this plain and slope were marked out the lines of redoubts and entrenchments and the encampment, facing the southeast. The house of Isaac Potts stood at the northern foot of the ridge, in the creek valley, not far from the river. It was a comfortable stone mansion, built in 1759 by John Potts, father of Isaac. They had a forge about half a mile up the creek, and from their rude smithy came the name of Valley Forge. The forge was burned by a party of Hessians about two months before the army encamped there, but the Potts house was not harmed, and stands to-day as stanch and comfortable as ever. The old-fashioned portico over the door once sheltered the sentinel who stood guard night and day in front of the headquarters of the commander-in-chief, and the broad stone step has been worn by the feet of six generations.

WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS.

Such a hollowed door slab is a history writ in stone. Never a jack-boot or dainty bottine stepped across the threshold but its trace was left in the

rock. Could these myriads lithographs be read, they would tell of the measured pace, of the General of the Forces, the lighter tread of Martha Washington, the quick tripping of vivacious Mrs. General Greene, the hurried stride of the orderly, the flying feet of the splashed and wearied scout; of Anthony Wayne, his piercing eye and ruddy face, his whole appearance that of a man of splendid health and spirits, skillful, energetic, full of resources, of sound judgment and extraordinary courage; of Muhlenburg, the clergyman who doffed his gown for the blue and buff of a brigadier, whose stalwart form and swarthy face were so familiar to the enemy that the Hessians cried: "Heer kommt teufl' Pete" at Brandywine; of portly William Alexander, Lord Stirling; of dark John Sullivan, of New Hampshire, headstrong, but bold as a lion; of Baron Steuben, the Prussian martinet, who came to teach the army; of Lafayette, tall, with auburn hair, the French boy of 20, with an old man's head; of Knox, stout as his wife, who laughed at him and was chaffed in return; of the great Nathaniel Greene, the Quaker blacksmith from Rhode Island; of the Pole Pulaski; of dashing Lighthorse Harry Lee, of Allen McLane, and a host of others as brave and devoted, who left their indistinguishable autographs on this door stone, and their names more plainly in the hearts of their countrymen, and even more imperishably.

There have been few changes in the Washington house, beyond replacing a floor and plastering the walls anew. The doors, with ponderous bolts and locks, are the same that Washington's hands moved, and the window sash and little square panes are unchanged since the days when tired and anxious eyes looked through them at the soldiers' huts upon the hills. The front room below stairs was the parlor; the rear room overlooking the camp was Washington's office. Two of the chairs were used by him. A recess in one of the windows holds a cupboard or box which was built in there by Washington for keeping his State and military papers, and the rough sawn boards are put together with workmanship

almost as rough. The walls are hung with paintings and engravings presented by interested people, but none of them are relics of the war time. In corner cupboards are exhibited relics dug up on the camp ground, cannon balls, pewter plates, rusty bayonets and flint locks and two powder horns made by soldiers while encamped here.

TALE OF A POWDER HORN.

One of the powder horns has given a new story to the history of Valley Forge, which has not before been printed except in a country newspaper. It is a cow horn, fitted with wooden plug and stopper, and bears the following inscription, scratched with a pocket knife:—

"Jabez Rockwell, Ridgeway,
Conn. He's Horn—Made in Camp
at Valley Forge—First used at
Monmouth, June 28, 1778.
Last at Yorktown 1781.

The grandson of Jabez Rockwell, Mr. C. F. Rockwell, has the diary of this young soldier, which contains the history of the powder horn. This diary has never been published and this story is full of human interest and adds another anecdote of Washington to the collection, so that it must be told as Mr. Rockwell has written it out from his great-grandfather's diary.

Jabez Rockwell was a farmer's son of Ridgeway, Connecticut. He was but fifteen years old when a recruiting party came through his village in charge of Benedict Arnold. He was too young to be allowed to enlist in the ranks so he marched away as a fifer. But he says, "In a fight in most cases, I put my life in my pocket and took a gun." Young Rockwell was in Arnold's division at the battle of Saratoga, when he was wounded, with his life in his pocket as usual. Later he was transferred to Washington's army, in whose service he remained until the close of the war. He was present at the surrender of Yorktown, and was in camp in Valley Forge through the memorable Winter.

The camp butcher at Valley Forge kept the horns of the cattle he killed for provisioning the soldiers until he had ten horns suitable for powder flasks. But he had received applications for the ten from thirty clamorous soldiers, who had none, and the butcher was sorely perplexed on the score of a fair allotment. He suggested dividing them by lot in some way and as the soldiers had no coins to flip up it was proposed to cut thirty small sticks of different lengths, the ten longest drawn to be the winners.

There was some squabbling over this, and it was finally decided to ask the commander-in-chief to make a decision and restore peace. When on that same afternoon Washington, accompanied by Lafayette, took in that part of camp in his tour of inspection, he was asked by an embarrassed private to decide the distribution of the horns. The General seemed pleased and willing to encourage any division of a harmless sort, readily consented and dismounted. He entered the hut and took from his pocket a pencil and scrap of paper and said:—

"I will write a number between 1500 and 2000, and the ten that guess nearest to the number shall be declared the winners."

The assemblage was highly delighted, and the guessing began. One man with a very long head acted on the theory that the General had written the number of the year in which the Declaration of Independence had been declared and promptly guessed "1776." Three or four others reckoned that the number would be half way between 1500 and 2000,

and said "1750." Jabez Rockwell was one of these, but the patriotic man who said "1776" proved the winner of the first choice, and the "1750" crowd was of course in the lucky ten. A cheer was given for the Declaration of Independence and the winner, in which the boyish Marquise de Lafayette heartily joined. Jabez fashioned his prize into a powder horn and carried it until the close of the war. The first opportunity he had to draw the stopper in battle and ram a charge home with his clinking ramrod was on the field of Monmouth, and the powder horn was filled and emptied many times until the service of young Jabez ended with Yorktown.

In 1784 Jabez married a Sarah Rundel, a relative of Isaac Van Wort, one of the captors of Major Andre, and in 1795 he emigrated to Pennsylvania and located near the present site of Milford, Pike County. He died in 1847 and his descendants live at Honesdale, Pa.

THROUGH THE HEADQUARTERS.

In the rooms upstairs there is little furniture. The back room contains a magnificent collection of photographs and engravings of Washington portraits—all that were made between 1772 and 1777, including the work of Gilbert Stuart, William Birch, Rembrandt Peale, Charles Wilson Peale, Charles Peale Polk, Jean Antoine Houdon, who made the Washington life mask and James Peale. The portrait by Charles Willson Peale was painted while Washington was in the room in which the pictures are now hung, at the request of his wife.

The fireplace in the kitchen is as large as a hail bedroom in a modern flat and far better ventilated. Within its eight feet of yawning emptiness there is room for a bed and bureau, and the back logs that once smouldered in these depths must have been sections of forest trees. A log addition was built by Washington for a dining-room and is as solid to-day as then, with walls clay-plastered, through which the logs obtrude like the ribs of a mastodon. There is a mystery to this house, as there should be in every well regulated mansion that dates back a century and a half. A narrow staircase leads from the kitchen down beneath the ground to a cave, or arched and brick-walled room, sixteen feet high and twenty feet long.

With the flickering light of a lantern to guide the stumbling footsteps down the subterranean passage there is an atmosphere of the weird that would make a fine color for a smuggler's yarn. No one knows for what purpose the original Potts built this chamber—probably for the emergencies that might arise with a hostile band of Indians sticking the front door full of whizzing arrows. A passage once led from the cave to the river, a quarter of a mile away. This is confirmed by the omnipresent "oldest inhabitant," but half a century or more ago the tunnel was blocked up by a too practical occupant, who feared that his children might wander like little moles into unknown dangers, or for some other reason perhaps not so sensible. There is a great chance for imaginative conjecture concerning this cavern, but the smuggling theory is not very plausible, for lack of motive.

The house and grounds are now preserved for future generations through the efforts of the Centennial and Memorial Association of Valley Forge, who were aided in 1886 by the Patriotic Order or the Sons of America, which came to the rescue and paid the \$3000 mortgage upon the property. Until that date a family had always lived in the headquarters. It was then decided to build a house for the janitor on the lawn near by, which was done with a portion of the \$5000 appropriated by the Pennsylvania Legislature for the purpose of re-



storing the building and grounds. Mr. Hampton has charge of the property, and his heart is wrapped up in Valley Forge.

ON THE ROAD ALONG THE VALLEY.

One way to visit the intrenchments that are left is to walk up the valley road and then climb the rocky side of Mount Joy on the left and cross the summit to the more gradual slope where the American defenses faced the British Army in Philadelphia. The valley is at the rear of the camp, and there was never a fear of an attack from that quar-

ter. A regiment could have decimated an army, cooped up as the enemy must have been in the narrow defile, with a towering hillside to climb, as steep almost as a house roof. Looking up the creek the landscape is rarely beautiful. The hills close in far in the distance, and from their embrace the water rushes down beneath an ancient covered bridge to mirror the slumbering hills in Summer and reflect their shadows from the gleam of the ice in Winter. Last week the black water flowed in a narrow channel between the icy shores, and the slopes were mottled with the drifted snow. These hills were clothed with yellow pine timber before the Revolution. Much of this was cut off to feed the saw mill at the mouth of the creek and the soldiers cleaned the rest away for fuel and building their huts. Several growths have been cut off since then, and now the hills are covered with young spruce, chestnut and oak forests, with here and there a patriarchal tree towering in solitary immensity in the midst of the infant generation.

A little distance above the village on the left side of the road is the grove from which Isaac Potts heard the voice of General Washington in prayer one day. The incident has been told too often to be repeated in detail. The commander-in-chief was on his knees, according to the story told by Potts, praying for the cause of his country's freedom and the welfare of his suffering army. To-day the solemn voices of the fir trees seem to whisper with more of meaning than elsewhere on the hills, and the music of the splashing water that runs by softens from mirth to a soft song. This is imagination perhaps, but is there no room for fancies in this utilitarian age?

Further up the valley is the Washington spring, that had bubbled from the rocks at the foot of the hill for centuries—cold and pure and sparkling. Tradition says that the commander and his soldiers drank from this rocky basin, and when water was sometimes the only staple left in the commissary department, tradition must be allowed to stand for history in this instance.

There has been but one Revolutionary grave to visit for years and years, a

mound in a field by the camp ground on the other side of the hill. Within the last year, however, Mr. Hampton discovered a lonely mound in the valley side of the slope, the existence of which is now first revealed to the public. The story of this grave in recent years is a tender little romance. It lies half way up the slope, and when the writer visited it the snow was heaped above it, waist high. The white shroud was cleared away until two rough stones showed the humble mound, almost level with the earth around it. The grass above was withered and brown, and the rude stones, picked from the hillside, were gray with weather and age. By the head was a withered rosebush. This is the story of the rosebush:—

For many years one man alone knew where this grave lay. He is an old man, a veteran of the late war, and a son of patriot sires. Many people had searched

the hill in vain, but the guardian kept his secret, and in the Summer covered the mound with dry leaves that no relie hunter might disturb it. On Decoration Day he laid a wreath beside the headstone, and then covered the grave with a leafy pall again. His loving hands planted the rosebush, and for many Summers it has blossomed and scattered its white petals above the sleeping soldier, and the breezes have breathed gently here, and have let the petals lie, and the rosebush flourish. By chance the guardian of the Valley Forge property found the grave and the rosebush, and he has made himself a watcher over the resting place in the shadows of the fir trees. There is no lettering on the stones. The "unknown dead" lies here, until the last great muster roll shall give him a name and a reward.

THE LINES OF EARTHWORK DEFENSES.

On the east side of this hill, which is on the east side of Valley Creek, are two redoubts and the foundations of the soldiers' huts. Fort Washington, or Poor redoubt, is nearest the hill, and commanded the road leading to the river where the army crossed. This a square earthwork, similar to the defense on the hill at Whitemarsh, and is now marked by snow-covered ridges, overgrown with forest trees. Fort Huntingdon, or Hemlingdon's redoubt, is a square earthwork of the same size northeast of Fort Washington, with three miles of table land between them. They are but mounds, and are the only clearly defined landmarks which the crumbling hand of Time has left to guide the pilgrim over these hills. The interior lines of intrenchments can be dimly traced in places, but the plow had leveled nearly the entire system of defenses. The line of defense from the west shore of the Schuylkill to the base of Mount Joy, the hill mentioned at the angle of Valley Creek, occupied commanding ground, and the earthworks and fortifications thrown up under the direction of General Duportail, were extensive and skilfully constructed.

The interior line of works and abattis was semicircular in form, crossing from north to south, with one star and two square forts, from which the army could have successfully covered a retreat westward. High on the shoulder of Mount Joy a second line girdled the mountain, and then ran northward to the river, broken only by the hollow through which the Gulf road descended to the Forge. The officers took quarters near Washington's house, and on the opposite side of the creek the artificers of the army were quartered in huts, with large log buildings for workshops. The bake-house, used for the double purpose of furnishing bread for the army and as a place for holding court-martials, was within a few yards of these workshops.

In the woods above Port Kennedy, on the river side of the road, the foundations of the huts are still plainly visible, though covered with a growth of underbrush. The shallow cellars seem to be in lines or streets, running north and south, and can be readily traced. The Northern and Eastern troops are said to have placed their log cabins much deeper in the earth than their Southern comrades, and therefore were better protected from the cold, and the mortality less than among the soldiers whose huts were almost entirely above ground. These little hollows in the snow have a world of pathos to-day. More than other remains at Valley Forge, they tell of the everyday lives of the men who huddled together in just such weather in these cellars, with log walls about them. Down this little street they used to trudge, half a dozen in tandem, with grapevine

ropes over their shoulders, dragging their firewood on sleds from two and three miles away.

EVERYDAY LIFE IN CAMP.

Dr. Waldo, a surgeon in a Connecticut regiment, lived in one of this line of huts, and kept a diary through most of the six months' encampment. He must have been an exceedingly interesting man: He wrote philosophical reflections and moralizing by the page, grumbled over petty discomforts, then reproached himself at length, and probably did his duty in spite of his growling. Here are some extracts from his journal:—

"December 14.—The army, who have been surprisingly healthy hitherto, now begin to grow sickly from the continued fatigues they have suffered this campaign. Yet they still show spirit of alacrity and contentment not to be expected from so young troops. I am sick, discontented and out of humor. Poor food, hard lodging, cold weather, fatigue, nasty cloaths, smoaked out of my senses—the devil's in't! I can't endure it. Why are we sent here to starve and freeze? What sweet felicities have I left at home—a charming wife, pretty children, good beds, good food, good cookery—all agreeable, all harmonious; here all confusion, smoke, cold, hunger and filthiness. Here

comes a bowl of beef soup, full of burnt leaves and dirt. Away with it, boys! I'll live like the chamelion—upon air. Pah! pah! cup! Patience within me! You talk like a fool! Your being sick covers your mind with a melanchollic gloom, which makes everything about you appear gloomy."

"See the poor soldier when in health. With what cheerfulness he meets his foes and encounters every hardship—if barefoot—he labors thro' the mud and cold, with a song in his mouth, extolling war and Washington—if his food be bad, he eats it notwithstanding with seeming content—blesses God for a good stomach and whistles it into digestion. But hark! patience a moment. There comes a soldier. His bare feet are seen thro' his worn out shoes—his legs nearly naked from the tattered remains of an

only pair of stockings—his breeches not sufficient to cover his nakedness, his shirt hanging in strings, his hair dishevelled, his face meagre, his whole appearance pictures a person forsaken and discouraged. He comes, and cries with an air of wretchedness and despair, I am sick, my feet lame, my legs are sore, my body covered with this tormenting itch, my clothes are worn out, my constitution is broken, my former activity is exhausted by fatigue, hunger and cold. I fail fast. I shall soon be no more, and all the reward I shall get will be, 'Poor Will is dead!'

"NO MEAT, NO MEAT."

"December 21.—Preparations made for huts. Provisions scarce. Mr. Ellis went homeward. Sent a letter to my wife. Heartily wished myself at home. My skin and eyes are almost spoiled with continual smoke. A general cry thr' the camp this evening among the soldiers, 'No meat, no meat.' The distant vales echoed back the melancholly sound, 'No meat, no meat.' Immitating the noise of crows and owls also made a part of the confused Musick."

"What have you for our dinners, boys?"

Nothing but fire cake and water, sir. At night, gentlemen, the supper is ready. What is your supper, lads? Fire cake and water, sir."

"December 22.—Lay excessive cold and uncomfortable last night. My eyes are started out from their orbits like a rabbit's eyes occasioned by a great cold and smoke. Our division are under marching orders this morning. I am ashamed to say it, but I am tempted to steal fowls if I could find them, or even a whole hog, for I feel as if I could eat one. But the impoverished country about us affords but little matter to employ a thief or keep a clever fellow in good humor. But why do I talk of hunger and hard usage when so many in the world have not even fire cake and water to eat. The human mind is always poring upon the gloomy side of fortune."

"This evening a party with two field pieces were ordered out. At 12 of the clock at night Providence sent us a little mutton, with which we immediately had some broth made and a fine



FORT HUNTINGDON.

stomach for same. He who eat pumpkin pie and roast turkies and yet curse fortune for using you ill, curse her no more least he reduce your allowance to a bit of fire cake, a draught of cold water and cold weather."

"Dec. 23.—This evening an excellent Player on the Violin in that soft kind of Musick which is so finely adapted to stir up the tender Passions, while he was playing in the next Tent to mine these kind of soft Airs, It immediately called up in remembrance all the endearing expressions, the Tender Sentiments, the sympathetic friendship that has given so much satisfaction, sensible pleasure, to me from the first time I gained the heart and affections of the tenderest of the Fair. A thousand agreeable little incidents which have occurred since our happy connection, and which would have passed totally unnoticed by such who are strangers to the soft and sincere Passion of Love, were now recalled to my Mind and filled me with those tender emotions and Agreeable Reflections which cannot be described and which in spite of my Philosophy forced out the sympathetic tear. I wished to have the Musick Cease—and yet dreaded its ceasing, lest I should loose sight of these dear Ideas, which gave me pain and pleasure at the same instant," etc., etc.

"Dec. 24.—Hutts go on Slowly. Cold and Smoke make us fret. But mankind are always fretting, even if they have more than their Proportion of the Blessings of Life. We are never Easy—always repinings at the Providence of our All-wise and Benevolent Being—Blaming our Country or faulting our friends. But I don't know of anything that vexes a man more than hot smoke continually blowing in his Eyes, and when he attempts to avoid it is met by a cold and piercing Wind."

OFFICERS RESIGN.

"Dec. 28.—Yesterday upward of fifty Officers in General Green's Division resigned their commissions—six or seven of our Regiment are doing the like to-day. All this is occasion'd by Officers' Families being so much neglected at home on account of Provisions. Their wages will not by considerable purchase a few trifling Comfortables here in camp and maintain their families at home while such extravagant prices are demanded for the common necessaries of Life. What then have they to purchase cloaths and other necessaries with? It is a Melancholly reflection that what is of the most universal Importance is most universally neglected—I mean keeping up the credit of money."

"When the Officer has been fatiguing thro' wet and cold and returns to his tent where he finds a letter directed to him from his wife filled with the most heart-aching tender Complaints a Woman is Capable of Writing—Acquainting him with the incredible difficulty with which she procures a little Bread for herself and children—and finally concluding with expressions bordering on despair of procuring a sufficiency of food to keep soul and Body together through the Winter—that her money is of very little consequence to her—that she begs him to consider that Charity begins at home—and not suffer his family to perish with want in the midst of plenty. When such, say, is the tidings they constantly hear from their families, what man is there—who has the least regard for his family—whose soul would not shrink within him? Who would not be disheartened from persevering in the best of Causes—the Cause of his country—when such Discouragements as these ly in his way, which his Coun-

try might remedy if they would."

"Sunday, Jan. 4.—Properly accounted I went to work at masonry—none of my mess were to Dictate me—and before night (being found with mortar and stone) I almost completed a genteel Chimney to my magnificent Hutt—however, as we had short allowance of food and no grogg my back ached before night."

"I was called to relieve a soldier tho't to be dying—he exclud'd before I reached the Hutt. He was an Indian—an excellent soldier—and an obedient, good-natur'd fellow. He engaged for money, doubtless as others do, but he has served his country faithfully—he has fought for those very people who disinherited his forefathers—having finished his pilgrimage he was discharged from the War of Life and Death. There the poor fellow lies not Superior now to a clod of Earth—his mouth wide open—his eyes staring. Was he affrighted at the scene of Death or the consequences of it? etc., etc., etc."

"Jany 5.—Applied for a Furlow; Surgeon Gen'l not at home—came back mumping and sulky."

"Jany 6.—Apply'd again—was deny'd by reason of Inoculations being set on foot—and because the Boston surgeons had too many of them gone—one of whom is to be broke for his lying and deceiving in order to get a furlow—and I wish his cursed tongue was pull'd out for thus giving an example of scandal to the New England surgeons, though the Connecticut ones are well enough respected at present. Came home sulky and cross—storm'd at the boys—and swore round like a Piper and a Fool till most night."

"If I should happen to lose this little Journal any fool may laugh at it that finds it—since I know that there is nothing in it but the natural flowings and reflections of my own Heart, which is Human as well as other People's—and if there is a great deal of folly in it there is no intended ill-nature, and am sure there is much sincerity—especially when I mention my family, whom I cannot help saying and not ashamed to say that I Love."

The last entry is dated January 8 and is right to the point.

"Unexpectedly got a Furlow—set out for home—The very worst of Riding—mud and mire."

The Journal contains an itemized expense account of the journey. Some of the items are:—

"Breakfasted at the pretty cottager's	
Jany 11.....	5s.
"Poquonnock, 10 m. from N. Y., at Jennings' Tavern & a narrow Bed—Lodged here—Landlady with teethache. Children keep a squalling.....	19s.
"For 2 boles grog & Phyal of Rumm Vaulk's House.....	10s.
"Good old Squaking Widow Ann Hopper, 26 m. from Jennings—fine living for Horse—Supper, Lodg'd, Break't	12s

SUFFERINGS OF THE PATRIOTS.

Famished for want of food, the soldiers were no better off for clothes. They were in want of everything. "They had neither coats, hats, shirts, nor shoes," wrote the Marquis de Lafayette.

"The men," said Baron Steuben, were literally naked, some of them in the fullest extent of the word. "Tis a melancholy consideration," were the words of Pickering, "that hundreds of our men are unfit for duty only for want of clothes and shoes." Hear Washington himself on the 23d of Decem-ber: "We have (besides a number of men confined to hospitals for want of shoes, and others in farmhouses on the same account), by a field return, this day, made no less than 2989 men now in

camp unfit for duty, because they are barefoot and otherwise naked. Our numbers since the 4th instant from the hardships and exposures they have undergone, numbers having been obliged for want of blankets to sit up all night by fires instead of taking rest in a natural and common way, have decreased 2000 men." By the 1st of February that number had grown to 4000, and there were fit for duty but 5012, or one-half the men in camp. "So," in the words of the Hebrew prophet, "they labored in the work, and half of them held the spears from the rising of the morning till the stars appeared."

Naked and starving in an unusually rigorous winter, they fell sick by hundreds. "From want of clothes their feet and legs froze till they became black, and it was necessary to amputate them." "Through a want of straw or materials to raise them from the wet earth sickness and mortality have spread through their quarters to an astonishing degree. The small-pox has broken out. Notwithstanding the diligence of the physicians and surgeons, the sick and dead list has increased one-third in the last week's return, which was one-third greater than the preceding, and from the present inclement weather will probably increase in a much greater proportion." Well might Washington exclaim, "Our sick naked, our well naked, our unfortunate men in captivity naked! Our difficulties and distresses are certainly great, and such as wound the feelings of humanity."

THE DEPARTURE FROM THE VALE OF DEATH.

The army had marched from Whitemarsh to Valley Forge on December 11, camping for several days on the Gulf hills fourteen miles from Philadelphia, where the army remained until the 18th, when the march that left bloodstained tracks in the snow by hundreds was painfully resumed. It was six months later, on June 18 that George Roberts, of Philadelphia, came galloping up the Gulf road covered with dust and sweat, with the news that the British had evacuated Philadelphia. Six brigades were at once in motion—the rest of the army prepared to follow with all possible dispatch early on the 19th. The bridge across the Schuylkill was laden with tramping troops. Cannon rumbled rapidly down the road to the river. The scanty baggage was packed, the flag at headquarters taken down, the last brigade descended the river-bank, the huts were empty, the breastworks deserted, the army was off for Monmouth, and the hills of Valley Forge were left alone with their glory and their dead.

There is not space here to tell of the brighter side of the winter, the news of the French alliance which was celebrated with wildest enthusiasm, and the arrival of Baron Steuben, the German veteran, who with infinite patience, care and labor, in a few months, transformed this untamed yeomanry into a disciplined and effective army.

GULPH MILLS CHURCH DEDICATED.

An Epoch in the History of
an Old-Established Upper
Merion Congregation.

THREE SERVICES ARE HELD.

The Dedicatory Service Read by Rev.

Joseph Taylor, of Philadelphia—A

Sketch of the Structure and
the Church History.

Special Despatch to "The Press."

Radnor, March 3.—The addition built to the Gulph Christian Church in Upper Merion Township, Montgomery County, was dedicated this afternoon. Services were held in the morning, the dedicatory services in the afternoon, and an evening service concluded the meetings for the dedication day.

The morning service opened at 10.45 o'clock with an organ voluntary and a hymn, then the Rev. E. E. Mitchell, of Philadelphia, read the Bible, which was followed by prayer. Rev. James Maple, D. D., of Milford, N. J., preached a sermon at each of the three services. At the morning service the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered.

At the afternoon service the Rev. J. Maple took as his text the eighteenth verse of the first chapter of Isaiah: "Come, let us reason together." After the sermon the Rev. Joseph Taylor, pastor of the Free-Will Baptist Church, of Philadelphia, read the dedicatory service, and the pastor, Rev. John B. Clark, made the dedicatory prayer. The collections taken up at the three meetings amounted to \$200.

The addition, or rather new building, as it is twice as large as the original one, has been erected in front of the old church, copying the design of the extension made to the "mother church," St. Martin's, at Canterbury, England, the idea being to preserve as much as possible of the old building, which has been a landmark in the neighborhood since its erection, in 1835. The church is located at the crossing of the Old Gulph Road and the Matson Fork Road, about half way between Radnor Station of the Pennsylvania Railroad and Conshohocken, being about two miles from either place.

The corner-stone of the new addition

From, *Press*
Philada Pa
Date, *Mar 4* 1875



THE MORDER CHURCH—ST. MARTIN'S, ENGLAND.

was laid on the 23d of last September and has the figures 1894 cut in it. The main entrance in front of the new building is through a vestibule in a stone tower, which is sixteen feet square and forty-eight feet high, containing a belfry in which there is hung a 1500-pound bell. The choir loft is over the vestibule in a second story of the tower and faces the pulpit. The wooden ceiling acts as a sounding board, throwing the sound down into the main room.

The new part is forty feet wide and sixty feet long, built of Conshohocken stone, laid flat and pointed. The part of the old building remaining has been dashed and colored to correspond with the new part. The pulpit is placed on the dividing line between the old and new buildings. There are rolling partitions back of and alongside the pulpit platform, which can be raised, throwing both rooms into one. The mapltery is under the pulpit platform, and a robing room alongside is formed by the rolling partition.

The new room is furnished in selected yellow pine and is wainscoted five feet high. It has an openwork ceiling, paneled in yellow pine, arches over the pulpit, with yellow pine columns on each side of the open space.

There are side entrances into each room from a vestibule which extends on both sides of the dividing line between the rooms. The outside vestibule door opens from a porte cochere. The main room is lighted by eight memorial windows of stained glass, three on each side and two in front, one on each side of the main entrance.

A window has been placed "in memory of John Ross, Janet Ross, his wife, and their deceased children." Another "in memory of George McFarland and his wife, Mary McFarland, presented by their sons." The Sunday school has a window on which is, "He shall gather the lambs within his arms." One of the end windows is "In memory of H. and E. A. Carlon." The other end win-

dow was put up by the church.

The side windows on the left of the pulpit are "In memory of William Noblett;" "In memory of I. H. Supplee and his wife, Catharine F. Supplee, and Frederick Light and family."

In 1830 Frederic Plummer began preaching in the Gulph Mills schoolhouse, which is still standing just beyond the church building on the Matson Ford Road, and often under the trees, when the schoolhouse would not hold the people, and the weather permitted. On July 21, 1832, it was decided to organize a Christian church. An organization was made on that day with twenty-five members. They soon found that they could not be very successful without a house in which to worship. Accordingly, a meeting was held, October 14, 1834, at which it was decided to purchase the site now occupied, which was done, and the first Christian church in Upper Merrian, know as the Gulph Christian Church, was erected. It was dedicated in 1835. This building, the most part of which still stands back of the new addition, was forty feet wide, fifty feet long and one story high. About twelve and a half feet of the front of the old building was taken down, so that the entire building to-day is ninety-two and one-half feet long, with the original width of forty feet.

There was a stone set in the front of the original building, in which was cut:—

FIRST CHRISTIAN
MEETING HOUSE
IN
UPPER MERRIAN,
A. D. 1835.

On taking down the front of the old building last year this stone was taken out and reset over a basement door in a side wall of the old structure, where it now is. The part of the old building which remains will be used for the Sunday school. Immediately following the dedication of the church in 1835 Rev. D. Flemming commenced his labors as

pastor of the Gulph Christian Church, and remained six years, until October 1, 1841, when he was succeeded by Rev. G. F. Hawk, who stayed seven years, until April 1, 1848, when Rev. Jacob Rodenbough became pastor. He remained eleven years, until April 1, 1859, when Rev. William Bradley became pastor for one year. On April 22, 1860, Rev. Jacob Rodenbough returned and stayed four years, until April 1, 1864, when Rev. J. G. Noble was elected. He was succeeded by Rev. John Conrad, who was elected pastor on April 1, 1867, and continued twenty-two years, until 1889. Rev. John Blood was pastor from July 1, 1889, to April 1, 1890, when the present pastor, Rev. John B. Clark, took charge.

BUILT BY RICH AND POOR.

The cost of the new improvements has been about \$8000. The congregation, which is composed mostly of working people, had raised about \$2000 among themselves in ten years. This fact becoming known to several of their wealthy neighbors, it was determined to assist the church in building a larger place of worship. The Building Committee was told to proceed with their plans and the additional sum needed was contributed, mostly by residents of Philadelphia who own farms and Summer places in the vicinity. The building was dedicated free of debt.

From, *Register*

Horristown Pa

Date, *April 5 '95*

FROM THE YEAR ONE.

A Land Deed as Old as the
Earth.

A REMARKABLE DOCUMENT.

It Conveys Property in This
County and Describes It from
the Beginning of Creation.

A MOST REMARKABLE deed was placed on record in the Recorder of Deeds office at noon to-day. The paper describes the transfer of a tract of several acres of land and improvements in the township of Upper Salford, this county.

The unusual feature of the deed is that it dates from the time the world was

created and is the only deed ever placed on record in this county containing this clause. A portion of the deed reads thus:

"Whereas the Creator of the earth by parole and livery of seizen, did enfeoff the parents of mankind, to-wit, Adam and Eve, of all that certain tract of land called and known in the planetary system by the name of the Earth, together with all and singular the advantages, woods, waters, water courses easements liberties, privileges, and all others, the appurtenances whatsoever thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining to have and to hold to them the said Adam and Eve and their heirs of their bodies, lawfully begotten, in fee tail general for ever as by the said feoffment. Recorded by Moses, in the first chapter of the first book of his records, commonly called Genesis by reference being thereunto had, will more fully and at large appear.

"And whereas said Adam and Eve died, seized of the premises aforesaid in fee tail general, leaving issue, heirs, children born of their bodies, to-wit, sons and daughters, who entered in the same premises and became thereof seized as tenants in common by virtue of the donation aforesaid and multiplied their seed upon the earth, and whereas in process of time the heirs of the said Adam and Eve, having become very numerous and finding it to be inconvenient to remain in common as aforesaid, besought themselves to make partition of the lands and tenements aforesaid, to and amongst themselves and they accordingly did make such partition."

The deed then goes on to explain how the land was purchased from the Indians by William Penn in July 1685.

The property remained in the Penn family until 1751 when it was purchased by Solomon Grimley, then a squatter. It has been in the Grimley family ever since and the present deed conveys the property, which consists of thirty acres of land, from Solomon K. Grimley, to James Z. Koons, his son-in-law. The original tract purchased from the Penn's consisted of over one hundred acres.

From, *Herald*

Horristown Pa

Date, *May 4 '95*

SUPPLEE'S FLOUR MILL BURNED

The Structure Was Erected Long Before the Revolution.

The Fire Supposed to Have Originated in a Heated Journal in the Upper Story—Loss \$12,000 to \$15,000—No Insurance on Building or Contents.

The flour mill at Gulf Mills, one of the oldest in Montgomery county, having been erected in 1747, was destroyed by fire early this morning. It stood directly opposite the monument recently erected in the vicinity by the Sons of the Revolution as a memorial of the encampment of Washington's army in that place in 1777, prior to their going into winter quarters at Valley Forge. At that time, as during the memorable winter at Valley Forge, a considerable portion of the supplies of flour and feed used by the army was obtained from this mill. It is somewhat remarkable that it had undergone no extensive repairs since its erection until those which were just completed prior to the fire. There has been for a number of years a gaping crack in one of the side walls, but it was not, apparently, sufficient to impair the strength of the building. Among the more recent owners were Wm. B. Thomas, John Leedom and Wm. Pugh.

Superintendent Webster, of the grain mill, while engaged about midnight in putting corn into the hopper, noticed a light through the window. He at once concluded that someone was advancing with a lantern. He saw flames issuing from the roof of the flour mill about 150 yards distant.

He gave an alarm, arousing the families of George Johnson and Joseph Noblet, nearby, and they were soon joined by farmers of the immediate vicinity. As the fire progressed and its lurid glare illumined the sky, many persons came to the grounds, some of them a distance of miles. The roof, of shingles, was soon consumed and so rapidly did the flames spread that by two o'clock nothing remained but the four stone walls and a smoldering mass of flour intermixed with the machinery.

Though the Gulf Creek is in close proximity, no apparatus was at hand to extinguish the flames. The contents of the mill were highly combustible, and it was impossible to save any of the contents.

It was feared at one time that the residence nearby would ignite. There was a force of men ready with buckets of water, but their services at that point were not required.

The loss is estimated from \$12,000 to \$15,000 with no insurance.

The contents included about eight hundred bushels of wheat and one hundred barrels of flour, besides bags, tools, measures, etc.

Operations were resumed only yesterday after a suspension of a month, while new apparatus for flour making was introduced, including two roller machines, a separator and a purifier.

There was also an engine in the basement and a boiler in a small adjoining structure, which was also burned. A water wheel was destroyed as was also the expensive elevator

recently introduced.

The mill was operated by ex-Director of the Poor Henderson Supplee, who has been its owner for many years. The output was about eighty-five barrels of flour per day.

The origin of the fire is unknown, but it is supposed to have been caused by the new machinery on the top floor, which was in operation until 9 o'clock. It is probable that a journal became overheated.

The heat of the fire made steam of the water in the boiler and, as the safety-valve happened to be open, steam was blown off until 2.30 o'clock.

From, *Gazette*
Ambler Pa
 Date, *June 6/95*

LOCAL HISTORY.

The Old Elliger House Near Fort Washington—Caspar Schlater.

At the junction of the new road from Ambler with the Bethlehem turnpike stands a two-story stone house, now just one hundred years old. It bears the date of 1795; and the initials of "S. C. H." It is supposed to have been built by Caspar Schlater, Jr., his last initials being placed first. At any rate he owned the premises about that time. For many years it had been known as the Dr. Elliger property. We believe the house is now occupied.

During the Revolutionary war this ground was owned by Dr. William Reynolds, of Philadelphia, who bought it in 1770 of Charles Maycock. In 1791 Reynolds sold to Caspar Schlater, Jr., a house and lot of ten acres for £112, 10 shillings. The price indicates quite an inferior house. The boundaries then were: "Beginning at corner in the great road to Philadelphia; thence due south fifty perches to corner of this and Methusaleh Evans' land (now Jacob Rumer's) thence by Rumer's and Caspar Schlater's other land southwest 53 perches to corner of Jacob Springer; by same northwest 17 perches to corner in great road; thence up the same north, 53 perches to beginning." It will be seen that this lot bordered the present turnpike for 875 feet.

This Caspar Schlater was the son of Caspar Schlater, Sr., who was supervisor of Upper Dublin in 1765. In 1776 Caspar Schlater was assessed as owning fifty acres, two horses and two cows. He had nine children. The elder Schlater was an immigrant from Germany, who came to America in 1751 and settled in Upper Dublin near Fort Washington. He

had four sons, Caspar, herein mentioned, John, Ulrich and Jacob. John Schlater was the ancestor of the Whitemarsh branch.

The Schlater ownership lasted for a long time. He held considerable land in the vicinity. In 1834 he made a will ordering his executors to sell, which they did in 1836 to William Spooner for \$5635. Two houses were included and eighty acres. Spooner immediately transferred to a Germantown innkeeper, bearing the queer name of Israim Engleman, who held it for nearly twenty years. With the completion of the railroad came a great rise in the value of property, so that by 1855 Engleman was able to sell to Dr. George Elliger for \$15,000. The latter was a noted homeopathic physician of the city, who had many patients during the war time and afterwards. He was, we believe, a native of Germany. The second Caspar Schlater was a man of affairs, something of a scholar, and did a large amount of business in the way of settling estates. He held important county offices, such as treasurer and commissioner. He was a member of Boehm's Reformed church, of which he was a ruling elder for many years.

Tradition says that Dr. Elliger paid the \$15,000 all in gold dollars in 1855. His son-in-law, J. M. Piersol, was a homeopathic physician at 1110 Spring Garden street, Philadelphia, and enjoyed a large practice from 1860 to 1880. E. M.

LOCAL HISTORY.

The Chalkley Styer Farm, Whitpain—The Old Peter Conrad Plantation.

This is one of the original homesteads of Whitpain and is on the southern border of that township, half a mile north of Narcissa. The surface slopes to the westward from Sandy Hill towards the adjacent lowlands of Plymouth. The general nature of the soil is a sandy loam in a high state of cultivation. Two highways border the farm and one intersects it, or rather two intersect it, as one field is northwest of the road to Blue Bell. The farm buildings are of modern construction. Formerly there were at least three old houses on the premises, of which one is yet standing near the Blue Bell road, and another existed until very recently. The latter had an antique appearance, though one end bore the date of 1808, and was built by Peter Conrad. Possibly the other portion was the original home of the pioneer. This stood a few hundred yards eastward of the present farm buildings. Here was a fine spring of water, and doubtless here the original settler dwelt. Another old house stood where the latter now stands. The present farm is composed of several pieces, so that its history is not easy to relate.

The wife of Chalkley Styer is the fourth in descent from Peter Conrad, who bought

the property in 1765.

Among the earliest owners here was a Welshman named Hugh Jones, who in 1728 sold to William Roberts, another Welshman, and probably a Quaker, 200 acres. The recitals of later deeds say that Roberts in 1741 received a patent from Thomas Penn for 105 acres. His lands covered the present Styer farm, a part of the Stockdale and Duffield farms, that occupied by Mr. Long, the Weidner farm and all lands down to the Plymouth road and out to Sandy Hill. It is thought that Roberts made the first improvements. His lands became lessened before his death, in 1749. Fifty acres had been sold in 1748 by his son, Joseph Roberts, to Henry Conard, comprising the north corner, and in 1738 three acres were sold by himself to the same party. In his will of 1749 he devised his remaining 150 acres to his son, Jacob Roberts.

Peter Conrad was one of several sons of Henry Conrad and Catharine Streypers, one of the pioneers of Whitpain. His wife was Hannah Wood. They had children, Tacy, Rachel and Catharine. Of these, Tacy married John Styer, May 10th, 1787. Rachel died young. Catharine, born May 9, 1776, married Caleb Evans, December 13, 1798, and died September 5, 1811. Peter Conrad was the owner of the farm during the Revolutionary period and on down till the close of the last century. He was a blacksmith by trade and was assessed for 116 acres. His will was made April 10, 1794. His daughter Catharine, wife of Caleb Evans, and John Styer, husband of his daughter Tacy, were made executors. The property went to these two daughters in nearly equal portions. Catharine Evans got fifty-nine acres of the lower or southeast part, on which stood the original house, whilst Tacy Styer got fifty-six acres on the upper part, on which are the present farm buildings.

Coming down another generation, in 1831 Tacy Styer conveyed her share to Charles Styer, father of the present owner. The latter was born July 27, 1797; married Hannah Roberts in 1823, and died July 27, 1856. He had children, Isaac, Chalkley, John, Tacy, Rachel, Lydia, David and Charles. The latter was drowned in the Conestoga whilst bathing. He was then a student of Millersville Normal school. Of the others, John was a soldier in the Civil war, where he was killed. He had a portion of the old plantation, which was bought by his brother Chalkley. In 1871, the latter bought twenty acres of Peter C. Evans, on which was the original house, and on the death of his father also acquired his lands, which he has greatly improved. His American ancestor on the paternal side was Jacob Styer, who came to Whitpain from Berks county in 1768 and died here in 1777. His children were Jacob,

Henry, John, David, Stephen, Leonard and Barbara. - By his marriage to Tacy Conrad John was led into the Quaker fold, and his branch of the family have been Friends ever since. Early in their married life they owned the present farm of Aaron Styer, a mile northwest of Blue Bell. The barn they built in 1792 bears their initials. Their children were Jacob, Stephen, John, Charles and Tacy. Peter (Conrad) Evans, above mentioned, was born in 1799 and was the son of Caleb Evans, who married Catharine Conrad, daughter of Peter Conrad. The wife of Chalkley Styer was Catharine, daughter of Peter C. Evans and Margaret Jenkins, and whom he married in 1863.

By the assessment of 1761 Jacob Roberts, then owner, was credited with ninety acres, of which fifty were in forest. He had two horses, four sheep and two cows. His children then mentioned were five in number.

E. M.

LOCAL HISTORY.

The Robinson Farm, Whitpain—Its Confiscation for Treason—John Robeson—Israel Robinson.

On the southeast side of the Skippack turnpike, half a mile southeast of Centre Square, is the old Robinson homestead. The site of the original dwelling and 47½ acres are now the property of George W. Stong. Here is a square-built, two-story stone house, with evergreen trees in front, and in the rear a one and a half-story kitchen. The barn is of modern construction, but the old stone wagon house is a relic of the past. The surface of the farm is mostly level, but some portions slope towards the south.

This has been the site of a human habitation for more than 175 years, and here was one of the original homesteads of the township. The first story of the present house is very old. It is certain that there was a house there in 1724, and probably many years previous. Part of the original plantation is now the property of Lorenzo Zimmerman, on the southwest side.

Owen Nicholas, a Welshman, was the first settler here, and who made the earliest improvements. Penn's commissioners of property, Edward Shippen, Thomas Story and Francis Logan, sold 311 acres to Ralph Jackson in 1702. In 1704, two years afterwards, Jackson sold one-half of this tract, or 155½ acres, to Owen Nicholas, of Radnor, for £113. The boundaries then given were: "Beginning in line of William Palmer, being a corner of Ellis Pugh; thence by Palmer's line of marked trees northeast 233 perches to corner in line of Richard Whitpanie, then northwest by same 107 perches to reputed line of Thomas Fitzwater; thence southwest by same 233 perches to line of Ellis Pugh; thence southeast 107 perches to beginning. Witnessed by Samuel, Harry and John Moore, before

Henry Pastorius."

It will be seen that the premises then bought extended back for nearly three-quarters of a mile and had a frontage of 1,766 feet upon the present highway, probably comprising part, or the whole, of the later farm of R. C. Beyer. - It comprised also the premises of Michael McCloskey.

Owen Nicholas owned this farm for 20 years and then removed to Merion. In 1724 he sold to William Robinson, or Robeson, Jr. In old documents the name is spelled both ways. Of the latter we know nothing, save that his life ended in the spring of 1746, whilst he was yet a man of middle age and when all his children were minors. He probably was ailing from some lingering disease, as he was "weak in body" on Feb. 4th, when his will was written, but which was not presented for registry till May 13th of the same year.

WILL OF WILLIAM ROBINSON.

In this document mention is made of his wife Sarah, to whom her husband devised two cows, a sorrel horse, six sheep, and the use of his plantation for four years in lieu of cost of bringing up and educating the minor children. After that period she was to enjoy one-half of the profits of that portion of the farm which was to become the property of her son John.

"To son George a lot of 10 acres off the southeast corner of the plantation"—now the McCloskey property. This son George was then under 16, at which age he was to be apprenticed to a trade.

"To youngest son, Joel, a lot of 10 acres adjoining the Skippack road, beginning within a perch of the corner between mine and Thomas Fitzwater's land, extending back towards my dwelling house to an oak by a gate leading to my house, and from the place of beginning down the said road as far as will be sufficient to contain 10 acres." This was part of the later Reuben C. Beyer property. It was sold by Joel Robinson to Abraham Wentz in 1761. Joel was only a boy at the time of his father's death and was to be apprenticed to a trade at the age of 16.

"To son William one gray mare, reserving to my daughter Hannah the first colt. Also to William a lot, part of the tract I now live on, the west part thereof extending along the great road leading to Swedes ford, 49 perches, and then 200 perches along lands belonging to George Fitzwater and William Hawkesworth; thence as many perches along on the other two sides as to contain 61 acres.

"To my eldest son, John, three working horses and one old gray mare. Also the remainder of my land, together with the house and barn where I now dwell, containing 110 acres. To enter into possession when John shall arrive at the age of 22 years.

"To eldest daughter, Mary, £30.

"To daughter Hannah £30.

"To youngest daughter, Sarah, £20."

This will was witnessed by Thomas Fitzwater, Sr., Thomas Fitzwater, Jr., and John Chilcot.

In the assessment of 1761 John Robinson was rated as the owner of 100 acres. Of these 40 were in forest and 12 were sown to winter grain. The farm was tenanted to Andrew Cramer, who had three horses, six sheep and four cows. The wife of Robinson bore the name of Sarah. In the same list is the name of George Robinson, as owning 60 acres, of which 40 were in forest. John Robinson is also assessed for five acres—whether the owner of the above farm, or another man of the same name, the writer does not know.

John Robinson was born in 1728. In 1750, when he took possession of the farm, he married. According to the records of Plymouth Friends' meeting, this marriage took place on the 3d of March, to Mary, daughter of Samuel Evans, of Norriton. It was witnessed by Sarah Robinson, Owen and Rowland Evans, John Lukens and 24 others.

THE TREASON OF JOHN ROBESON.

When the Revolution came on, John Robeson proved a sympathizer with the British government, and gave his adhesion to the royal cause by overt acts of treason. He joined the army of the enemy within this state in 1777. In consequence he was tried, found guilty and his property confiscated. It is not stated that he was arrested in person. Probably if he had gone so far as to join the English army, he would not voluntarily have placed himself again within the power of the American authorities.

The old record says: "At a meeting of supreme select council, held in Philadelphia, Jan. 28th, 1779, Israel Taylor and John Robeson, cordwainer, of Whitpain, were ordered to be arrested for high treason in aiding and assisting the enemies of the state and of the United States of America by having joined their armies within this state." John Robeson died three years later, at the age of 54.

The subsequent deed to Edward Milne was given by William Moore, president of the commonwealth, conveying a house and 75 acres of land, "beginning at corner of late John Robinson, deceased, (of which the premises are a part) in line of Abraham Wentz, deceased; thence by line of Wentz southwest 124 perches; thence by now or late Thomas Fitzwater southeast 80 perches; thence by same 50 perches southwest; thence by Mathias Barnhart southeast 8 perches; thence by Joseph Hallowell and William DeHaven northeast 80 perches; then by John Robinson northwest 22 perches and northeast 94 perches and northwest 73 perches to beginning."

Probably the John Robinson deceased, above mentioned, was the John Robeson who went to the British, unless there were two of same name in the same neighborhood. If this supposition is correct it would indicate that John Robeson died between 1779 and the sale of his land in 1782. Administration was granted on his property May 29, 1782.

In this deed to Milne, the preamble says, "late the estate of John Robeson, an attainted traitor, seized and sold according to law to the said Edward Milne for the sum for £705, subject to the payment of 21 9-20 bushels of good, merchantable wheat annually, payable to the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania."

We have record of another John Robinson, who lived in Whitpain, that married Mary Morgan, widow of Jesse Morgan, thereby obtaining a grist mill and 50 acres. This he sold in 1762 to Mathias Troxell. It was the present mill near Custer station. Morgan had died in 1757.

Edward Milne was the owner for the ensuing 10 years. In 1792 he sold the farm to Frederick Boulange. In 1799 the yearly rental to the university was released for the lump sum of \$517. Before that date, however, Boulange was deceased. On the 14th of August, 1798, Israel Robinson and Catharine Boulange, the administrators of Frederick Boulange, sold to Deborah Timmenum for £150. There is no record of a deed to Israel Rob-

inson, but he subsequently acquired the farm and probably immediately afterwards.

This Israel Robinson was born Oct. 10, 1761, and married Jane Davis, Nov. 10, 1782. He had children, John, William and Mary. He died the owner of the farm, Aug. 31, 1820, in his 59th year. This Robinson family were Quakers, and buried at Plymouth. From the record of an old Bible in possession of Mrs. Jennette Wood, of Norristown, we learn that William Robinson died Feb. 10, 1785, and that his daughter Mary died May 5, 1790. This may indicate that William Robinson was the father of Israel Robinson.

According to the provisions of the will of Israel Robinson, made in 1820, his estate went to his widow Jane during her life, and then to his granddaughter, Jennette Robinson, excepting a lot upon which John and Sarah Robinson were living, "which I bought of William Ellis."

John Robinson was born August 20, 1784, and died in his 38th year, May 18, 1821, or less than a year later than his father. He married Jane, daughter of John Lozier, and after her death married a second wife.

Jennette Robinson, the daughter of John Robinson, was born Dec. 23, 1805, and married William Wood Feb. 3, 1825. She is yet living in Norristown in good health, though past 90, being one of the oldest persons in that borough.

Dr. Nathaniel H. Longabaugh, son-in-

law of William Wood, bought of the Robinson estate, which he held for many years. In 1864 he sold to John Wilson Jones, who, the next year, conveyed to Edward A. Good, subject to a mortgage of \$5,000 payable to Jennette Wood. In 1866 Good sold to William M. Cline. The two last transfers have been: 1871, Cline to Edward A. J. Harley; 1894, Harley to George W. Stong, to whom was conveyed 4½ acres. Dr. Longabaugh married Asenath Wood, daughter of William Wood.

E. M.

From, *Press*

Philadelphia

Date, *June 9th 1895*

LAST DAYS OF THE SPRING HOUSE INN.

The Ancient Tavern, Two
Centuries Old, to Be
Rebuilt.

GRAY WALLS WITH A PAST.

Beneath the House the Spring Still
Flows That Drow the Traveler of
the Long Ago—Once the
Center of Life.

There is no more beautiful region of rolling green hills and the smiling freshness of farming country in all Pennsylvania than the fertile fields of Montgomery County that were settled by thrifty Welsh colonists more than two centuries ago. The local nomenclature bears witness to the nativity of the first settlers in "Gwynedd," "Penllyn" and "North Wales," and one of the verdure-framed stone farm houses or gray-gabled barns looks like the hall-mark of centuries to prove that they builded well and for posterity in those long-gone days. Even in Montgomery County, however, the practical hand of the prosaic present sweeps away the landmarks about which cling the musty memories of early times, and ancient houses are ruthlessly demolished or refashioned when they no longer yield rental as

tenements, or must give way to gay Summer villas and "modern improvements," most dreadful phrase to the lover of antique and the worshipper of ancestors.

On Monday last a hardened band of workmen began to tear away the rude and massive walls of the "Spring House Tavern," the oldest shelter for man and beast in the country round, and probably next to the Blue Anchor Inn, on Dock Street, Philadelphia, the most ancient inn in this country. Indeed, its beginnings are lost in a fog of local tradition, and the oldest inhabitant of Gwynedd Township never heard from his grandfather just when the first cask of ale was tapped in the Spring House Tavern. It is certain that in 1698 the low-raftered house was the popular resort for the wagoners and travelers on the pike road, and that the gushing spring in the cellar was known for many miles for the sweetest, coldest water that ever tempted a dusty-throated pilgrim to forsake the foaming mug of a stronger brew.

Until two months ago the house had been occupied as a tavern and dwelling for more than 200 years without a break in the succession of dwellers therein. Indeed, half a century ago, the tavern was used as a school house for a time, and one old man of the neighborhood says that in his boyhood, seventy children learned the "three R's" in the old place. They must have been wee and precocious youngsters, for it would be difficult to pack seventy infants in long clothes in the little tap-room down stairs.

THE SLEEPY HAMLET.

Spring House is a bit of a hamlet a mile and a half back of Penllyn, on the North Penn branch of the Reading, about twenty miles from Philadelphia, consisting of a hotel, a store, blacksmith shop and a few dwellings, whose back yards stretch away into billowing acres of farming land. On the hills around are many fine Summer houses owned by wealthy Philadelphians; but Spring House proper is clustered about the fork of the roads that lead, one from Bethlehem to Germantown, and the other to Allentown and to the hamlets of Three Tuns and Horsham. Another tavern at Spring House dated back to 1719, and flourished until destroyed by fire eight years ago. But the original inn with the spring house as a part of the building had been standing for many years before this respectably ancient date.

The house is modest, to say the least. The main room below stairs is not more than twenty feet square, raftered with rough hewn logs cut from the forest that are still sound at heart. The fireplace in one corner is made from rough stone slabs, gathered from the fields, and blackened with the sooty layers of two centuries of hugh back logs, and the fat savors of broiled rashers and the steaming burden of the crane. There is one room upstairs, an attic, with a steep pitch of walls where the roof peaks and two multi-paned windows at the ends. Back of the main room is the spring house or cellar, and above it a small room, entrance to which is made by a short stairway and a low opening, through which the guest must have crawled on hands and knees with



SPRING HOUSE INN 200 YEARS OLD.

candlestick held high. The upper story can only be reached by this awkward ascent, and a bibulous royster, overtaken in his cups, must have elected to sleep by the fire rather than attempt this laborious journey.

A PICTURE DRAWN IN VERSE.

The tavern was not intended for use as a sleeping place. Food and drink, the pleasure of talk and the cheer of a welcoming blaze were furnished, but the guests for the most part were the farmers and teamsters who were en route to the Germantown market with their huge Conestoga wagons, produce laden. These hardy forefathers slept in their wagons and their lumbering arks were drawn up in long lines before the tavern in market time. Most of the farmers carried their provisions with them and ate in the open air, along rough tables furnished by the landlord. In October, 1804, Alexander Wilson, the ornithologist, with two companions, on a walking tour from Philadelphia to Niagara Falls, stopped over night here, and in his poem, "The Foresters," gives this account of the place:—

"The road was good, the passing scenery gay,
Mile after mile passed unperceived away,
Till in the West the day began to close,
And Spring House tavern furnished us repose.

Here two long rows of market folks were seen,
Ranged front to front, the table placed between,

Where bags of meat, and bones and crusts of bread,

And hunks of bacon all around were spread;
One pint of beer from lip to lip went round,
And scarce a crumb the hungry house-dog found;

Torrents of Dutch from every quarter came,
Pigs, calves and sour-cROUT the important theme

While we, on future plans resolving deep,
Discharged our bill and straight retired to sleep."

Wilson emphasizes the frugality of the Pennsylvania Dutch farmers whom he met here, but it is probable that he saw them on their way to market, and had he fallen in with the "two long rows of market folks" at Spring House on their way back, their capacious pockets lined with silver shillings, one pint of beer would not gotten further than the first lip.

The Bethlehem Pike originally ran a full half mile from the Spring House Tavern, but the spring itself was so necessary for horse and man that the road was shifted to run close by the inn and its ever-flowing fountain. Until the North Penn. Railroad came through the region, in 1857, this place was an important center of travel, and the long stone barns for stabling at

the cross roads show that Spring House was a flourishing rendezvous. In 1698 John Humphreys settled at this place, and the Friends held their first meeting. Mention is made of a road from the stone spring house to the Pennypack Mills in 1702, and soon after the road was extended from Philadelphia by this place to the North Wales Meeting-house, a mile and a half distant.

SOME EARLY HISTORY.

Soon after pike roads were opened from Spring House to Richmond, to Horscham Meeting House, and the Goshenhoppen or Summeytown road was constructed in 1735. Bethlehem began to be a town in 1731, and all travel from the Lehigh River, and from Allentown to Philadelphia, was centered in the road passing by the Spring House. The old records show that Benjamin Davis kept the tavern from 1758 to 1772, and in April, 1758, Daniel Knuckler, on his way from Bethlehem to Philadelphia with six Indians in his charge, mentions stopping here. The first stage-line passing through the present county was started in 1763, between Bethlehem and Philadelphia, making weekly trips and stopping at this inn. General Lacey mentions the "Spring House Tavern" in his despatches of 1777, and the name is also mentioned in a report of a raid made by the British in 1778. Of course General Washington made his headquarters here. The patriot leader could never have passed the open door with the great fire leaping redly within and the odor of "broilers" wafted through, without dismounting from his famous white charge and making his headquarters at least for over night.

Christian Dull succeeded Benjamin Davis as innkeeper and waxed mightily in the land. He came from Perkiomen way and moved to the Spring House in 1772, where a few years later he was rated as owning a tavern, eight acres of land, a horse and a cow. But Christian Dull was an ardent patriot and when the Revolution outflamed he raised supplies, obtained a captain's commission and got himself much disliked by his neutral neighbors. So, no sooner did the war close than slander was busy to ruin his reputation and business. In the Philadelphia "Gazette" of 1783 mine host Dull inserted an advertisement, offering a reward of 100 guineas for the author of a report that "he was privy in robbing a collector." Some of the disaffected neighbors while attending the Philadelphia market reported that Innkeeper Dull and his wife had been guilty of cutting the throats of more than one traveler who had stopped at their house for their valuables. To this Mr. Dull replied by another advertisement offering another reward. These malicious reports, of course, damaged business, but Christian Dull thrived and outlived most of his enemies, closing his career as a landlord in 1822.

After that another and larger hotel was built near by and the original Spring House was not much longer the social focus for the life of the country round. For the last twenty-five years the inn has been part of the Hallowell estate and is now being enlarged to serve as a more commodious dwelling house. The

rough stone walls are nearly two feet thick, part of the weather-work shingling of the roof has been undisturbed for more than a century and the square-shouldered, sturdy old chimney, fashioned of picked-up stones, has laughed at the gales of 200 years.

The chief claim of the Spring House has been that it was almost the only one of the very old taverns about Philadelphia that had not been improved or altered since the first stones were laid. It is a rough and cramped little box of a place, but stout hearts have pledged faith beneath its mossy roof, true hands have given the clasp of good fellowship before its hearthstone, loving eyes have sworn fealty over clinking glasses by its little windows, and the hearts and hands and eyes have been part of the soil not far away for five generations.

The Judge on his circuit, the parson on his parish rounds, the sporting squire out with his hounds, some city dame, rambling along with her ponderous coach and four, young Lochinvar and his timorous charmer bobbing on the pillion behind him, fleeing parental wrath, the beated drover, the clumsy Dutch farmer, the Welsh plowman, a veritable Canterbury pilgrimage has passed through the door of the Spring House, the open door that is now no more.

It was of such a place that Longfellow wrote:—

"As ancient is this hostelry
As any in the land may be,
Built in the old Colonial day,
When men lived in a grander way,
With ample hospitality.

"A region of repose, it seems,
A place of slumber and of dreams,
Remote among the wooded hills;
For there no noisy railway speeds,
Its torch race scattering smoke and gleeds.

But noon and night the panting teams
Stop under the great oaks that throw
Tangles of light and shade below."

From, *Record*

Phila & Pa

Date, *June 9, '95*

HANCOCK'S TOMB TO STAY

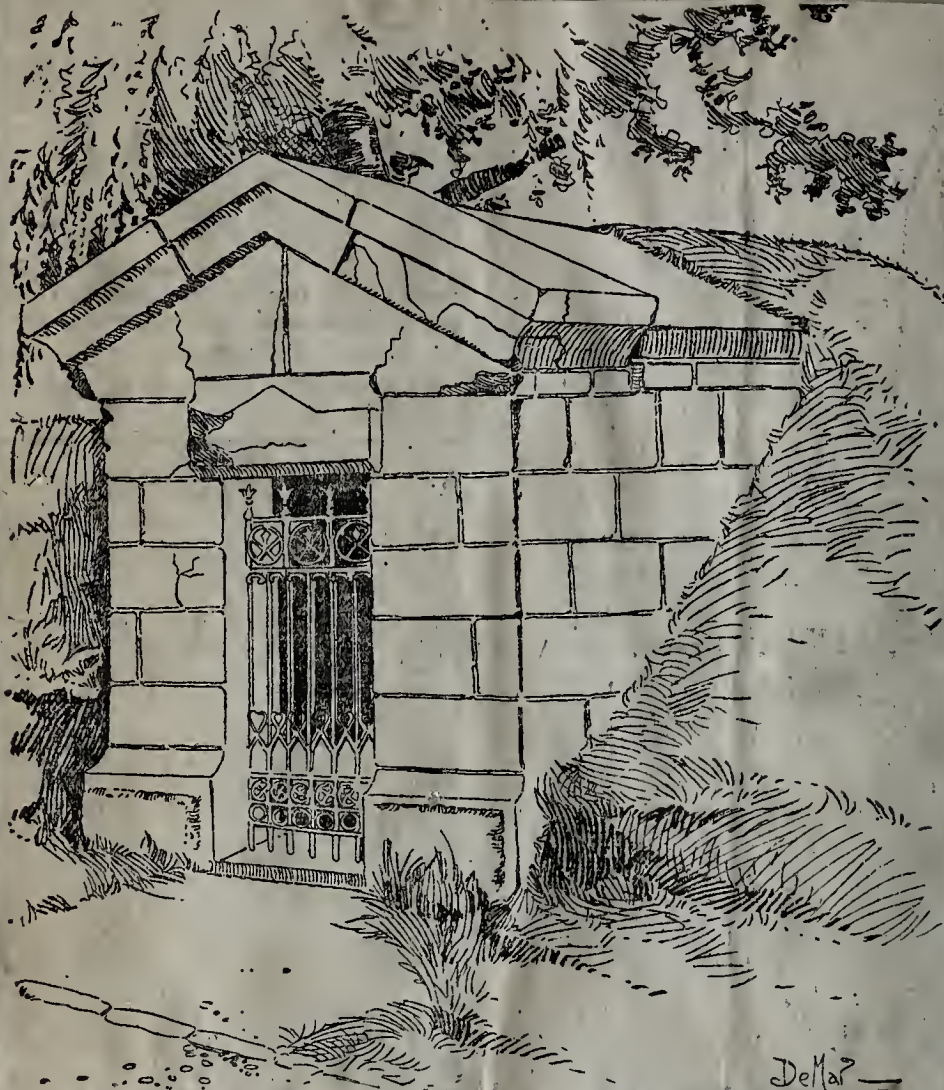
Montgomery Cemetery Will Keep the
Famous General's Remains.

A NEW MAUSOLEUM PLANNED

Pennsylvania Commandery Loyal
Legion Will Have Charge of the
Grave and Will Provide for
Perpetual Care.

The storm of popular indignation which stirred Norristown since it was suggested that the remains of General Winfield Scott Hancock should be removed from Montgomery Cemetery to the National Cemetery, at Arlington, has been abated somewhat by the assurance that the resting place of the famous general shall remain undisturbed. The proposition to remove the remains from the spot which General Hancock himself designated as his burial place has had the desirable effect, however, of giving rise

few hundred yards to the north stands the old stone house in which Hancock lived in boyhood, together with the old spring house which supplied the little farm, nothing remaining of the latter building but its low barren walls. Adjoining the Hancock vault is the receiving vault of the cemetery, and a weeping willow growing between them lowers its drooping boughs over both. In the same cemetery repose the remains of Generals Zook and Slemmer, and a tall granite shaft marks the grave of General John F. Hartranft. A number of



GENERAL HANCOCK'S TOMB AS IT APPEARS TO-DAY.

again to the movement to provide a more substantial monument than the crumbling tomb which now marks the spot. Steps are to be taken to place the care of the grave in the hands of the Pennsylvania Commandery, Military Order of the Loyal Legion, and when this is done a new mausoleum will be built.

AN UNPRETENTIOUS BURIAL PLACE.

Hancock's tomb is in a quiet, unpretentious spot in the old Montgomery Cemetery, a half-mile west from the centre of Norristown. It is on a gentle slope facing the receding line of green hills across the Schuylkill Valley. A

other distinguished soldiers are sleeping their last sleep beneath the shade of the trees in the quiet old burying-ground.

HANCOCK CHOSE HIS BURIAL PLACE.

General Hancock was born in the village of Montgomery Square, in Montgomery County, on February 14, 1824, but when he was a few days old his parents moved to Norristown, where he spent his boyhood. He had a great love for the old town in which he passed so many happy years, and often expressed the desire to be buried in Montgomery Cemetery. His wife was a native of St. Louis, and was anxious that the family burying ground should be located in that city. But Han-

cock's preference was for the old cemetery near his childhood home, and when his daughter died, in 1883, he had erected a tomb for the reception of her remains, specifying that he should be laid by her side upon his own death. His wife and son were buried in St. Louis, according to Mrs. Hancock's preference.

The characteristic simplicity of the great soldier was shown in the directions he gave for the erection of the tomb. As originally planned it was to cost \$3000, although a plain structure, but this was too much for Hancock's means, and a modest little tomb was built, at a cost of \$700.

A SEVERELY PLAIN TOMB.

By his own direction the structure was very plain, and, following his wish, the only place in which the family name was displayed was on the lintel in the interior, upon which was carved "W. S. Hancock." The front of the vault, jutting from the mound in the rear, was built of plain sandstone, about nine feet high and six feet across. A grated iron door and another of wood open to a small vestibule in front of the plain white marble slabs which close the inner vault. The severe plainness of the tomb is in keeping with its surroundings. It is located in an out-of-the-way nook at one corner of the cemetery, away from the more pretentious granite shafts which beautify the main portion of the burying ground. By the side of the vault is the receiving vault of the cemetery, the rough, unhewn stones of which are coated with whitewash. Across the path are the unmarked graves of a few children, and a plain picket fence angles around the corner of the graveyard. But it is a quiet spot, hallowed by memories of both the life and death of the illustrious soldier whose remains repose in the plain little tomb.

FALLING SLOWLY INTO RUIN.

When General Hancock died, on February 6, 1886, his body was taken to Norristown from Governor's Island, N. Y., and placed in the vault beside that of his daughter. Year by year since his interment the soft sandstone front of the vault has gradually crumbled and cracked, and threatens to become a ruin in a comparatively short time. Efforts were made at different times to raise means to provide a more fitting tomb, but nothing has ever come out of it. Early last spring, however, Colonel L. W. Read, of Norristown, applied to the two surviving brothers of General Hancock for permission to rebuild the vault at his own expense. The contracts for the work were given out, but it was stopped by a letter from Colonel John Hancock, the General's younger brother, in which he stated that permission had been given to the Second Army Corps Association to remove General Hancock's body to the national cemetery at Arlington. The Association also declared its purpose of carrying out the removal, and applied to Hilary B. Hancock, of Minneapolis, the twin brother of General Hancock, for his approval.

NORRISTOWN WANTS THE BODY TO STAY.

Norristown arose in indignation over the proposition. Protests were made by societies, and Colonel Read was heartily seconded in his opposition to the removal. It was decided, if necessary, that the cemetery company should issue an injunction restraining any unauthorized person from breaking the seal of the vault. The whole borough was shocked at what was regarded as an outrage in attempting to thwart the wishes of General Hancock as to his place of sepulture. Letters were produced written by General Hancock himself in which he expressed the desire to be buried in Montgomery Cemetery, and outlining his wishes concerning the construction of the tomb, which was being superintended by his friend Benjamin E. Chain. Then came a letter from H. B. Hancock, the General's twin-brother, stating that he was unalterably opposed to the removal of the body and would not give his consent to it. As it is held that the eldest brother has the prior right to the remains, Colonel Read and his associates in charge of the matter contend that the removal is not possible without his consent. Thereupon they started the movement to have the future care of the remains transferred to the Loyal Legion in order to guard against any attempted removal in the future, and to provide that the tomb shall hereafter be kept in a proper state of repair.

TO BUILD A MORE FITTING MEMORIAL.

Recognizing that the repairing or duplication of the present tomb would not of itself do justice to the memory of General Hancock, Colonel Read has decided to postpone improvements until the Loyal Legion is placed in charge of the remains. The plan also contemplates the purchase of the site where Hancock spent his early childhood, and the restoration of the dwelling house, with the view to maintaining it as a memorial.

Colonel L. W. Read, who has taken such an active interest in the matter, was an intimate friend of General Hancock. He was chief surgeon in the Third Division, Fifth Army Corps, under General Crawford. In December, 1863, he extracted from General Hancock's body the bullet which he had received in the battle of Gettysburg on July 3, and which almost cost the General his life. Colonel Read has been foremost in the opposition to the removal of Hancock's body, and he will probably be appointed by the Loyal Legion to act in superintending the work of remodeling the tomb.

From, *Republican*
Lansdale Pa

Date, *June 12 '95*

History of "Old China Hall."

The old China Hall property lying along the Delaware river, a few miles below Bristol, Bucks county, which is shortly to be turned into a pleasure resort, has a rather interesting history. Over 60 years ago the hall was built, and occupied as a college, to which young men from all parts of the country came to complete their education. It continued as an educational centre for a number of years and became very widely known. At the breaking out of the late war most of the students left and went off to the war. The college was closed and remained in a state of idleness for over a year. Then the Government occupied the hall, and fitted it up as a hospital, whither wounded soldiers were taken, many being carried there by steamers all the way from Fortress Monroe. Union and Confederate soldiers alike were treated within the walls of the old building, and the dead heroes of both armies were buried along the shore of the Delaware in front of the hospital. Afterward the Government bought a tract of land near by, and re-interred the dead there. After the war the old hall was used as a school for colored soldiers' orphans, and continued so for a number of years. This year the property has been leased to a corporation, and will be fitted as a pleasure resort.

From, *Inquirer*
Philada Pa
 Date, *June 16 '95*

GENERAL HANCOCK'S NEGLECTED TOMB

A CASE OF CEMETERY MANAGERS
WHO DO NOT KNOW HOW
TO MANAGE.

LITTLE TASTE OR KNOWLEDGE

Driveways of Cinder and Water-
Washed Walks—A Beautiful Lo-
cation Which Man Doesn't Make
the Most Of—Bare Surfaces and a

Littered Sod.

Special to The Inquirer.

NORRISTOWN, Pa., June 15.—The Montgomery Cemetery, at the upper end of this borough, where Generals Hancock, Hartranft, Adam J. Slemmer, "the hero of Fort Pickens," and other prominent participants in the war for the Union are buried, owes nearly all of its beauty to nature and very little to the hand of man. The proposition to remove the body of General Hancock from the Hancock tomb to Arlington on the Potomac calls public attention to the usual management of cemeteries throughout the country and to the absence of taste in such directions, a lack which is due to the want of knowledge as to how grounds of this kind should be cared for. Montgomery Cemetery would be much improved if the managers would buy the back volumes of "Garden and Forest" and endeavor to apply in practice the sound principles laid down in its pages. The approach to the cemetery is over a long avenue lined with maple trees, and the effect is very good. But beyond this and the beautiful location there is not much to be said in favor of the cemetery. There seems to be almost no care or intelligent direction beyond what the lot-holders themselves give. The managers probably take the view that the cemetery company is an organization formed for the purpose of selling graves and making dividends. But a cemetery among civilized people has aesthetic and religious purposes as well as a dividend-making purpose, and any failure to appreciate this becomes pronounced when the bodies of famous men are placed in its keeping and visitors from a distance make pilgrimages to their graves.

On every side Montgomery Cemetery shows the absence of that intelligent care which such a place ought to receive daily. Just within the entrance, on the grass plot in front of the sexton's house and almost under the sexton's nose, pieces of newspaper and wrapping paper are scattered about in an unsightly litter. In the centre of the plot is an excavation filled with rubbish. The grass, even at this season of the year when it is so easy to keep the grass fresh and trim looking, has a neglected appearance. This is not a promising start, and the surprise of the visitor is increased when he finds that the driveways are either covered with cinder or are left as nature made them. There is no excuse for cinder driveways or mud when stone roads 12 feet wide can be built for \$4000 per mile and stone roads suitable for this cemetery cost much less. The fence about the cemetery is of wooden palings coated with tar. The fence does not always stand upright and in places is covered with poison ivy which it is apparently nobody's business to remove.

General Hartranft's grave and monument are in a well-cared-for lot on the edge of the bluff overlooking the Schuylkill River. But all around the



THE HANCOCK TOMB.

Fartranft lot the daisies are permitted to grow unmolested by the cemetery people, and this encouragement of the best makes the keeping of every lot by private owners more difficult. Much of the ground in the immediate vicinity remains in a crude and unfinished state, and the water washes in the neighboring walks have not been repaired.

The Hancock tomb is at the head of a ravine in the corner of the cemetery, next the town. The public hubbub which has been caused by reports of its condition is due more to the want of taste and public spirit on the part of the cemetery management than it is to the tomb itself. It is true that the sandstone, of which the vault is built, shows some slight signs of degeneration near the top. There are small horizontal cracks and the one in one or two places has crumbled away. But so far as appearance

goes, the tomb itself is far better than its surroundings in the care of the company. The surrounding slovenliness is unnecessary, as a couple of gardeners in two days' time could make the whole presentable. The sexton, who talked emphatically of the impossibility of anybody removing the body, did not think that he was called upon to pick up some dead limbs of trees that were lying upon the bare and water-washed face of the bank penetrated by the vault. No grass grows on the sod roof of the adjoining receiving vault of the company. Just across the narrow driveway from the Hancock vault, in the fence corner, are a number of children's graves, some of them with the plainest of gravestones, some of them without any stones. These were the children of parents who did not own lots and who have only been able to buy space for a grave as it was needed. There are fresh flowers on many of these

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mournful little graves, crowded together in the least desirable corner of the cemetery, in close proximity to the tomb of the great soldier and the people's candidate for President of the United States. The freshness of these flowers contrasts strongly with the unsightly withered wreaths and emblems that are crowded together inside of the Hancock vault or stacked up against the fence. Worse than the flowers are the two lithographs of General Hancock that, with execrable taste, are permitted to stand inside of the vault, facing the spectator. The flowers are reminders of Decoration Day, but, if nobody else will do it, the soldier hands that placed them there should return to take the flowers away as soon as they are withered. The soldiers could easily be convinced that the lithographs are a mistake.

In spite of all the disadvantage of situation and the present unsightliness of the surroundings, the Hancock tomb and the immediate vicinity could be made to take on an attractive appearance by the expenditure of a small sum of money and a little labor. Surgeon-General Reed, who cut out the ball which entered Hancock's leg, at Gettysburg, says that General Hancock chose the location for several reasons. One was that his daughter dreaded the thought of being buried in the ground. A vault became necessary and a vault of course had to be built in the side of a hill. Another reason was that the adjoining land beyond the cemetery fence belonged to a life-long friend of the soldier and that the outlook was upon scenes with which he was familiar in boyhood. The selection spoke of that attachment to the soil which is so strong in some individuals, families and nations. Perhaps General Hancock was disappointed somewhat late in life to find that the ties which bound him to Montgomery county were stronger than the ties that bound his old acquaintances to him. Norristown did not give him a majority when he was a Presidential candidate. On one occasion in his last years he visited Arlington with the idea of selecting a burial place there. But nothing came of it and now it would be a mistake to attempt to remove the body. Nevertheless it is not improbable that the attempt will be made unless the cemetery company, the people of Norristown and the family unite to keep the tomb and its vicinity in better condition. Dr. Reed, of Norristown, is one of several members of the Loyal Legion acting as individuals ready to assume care of the vault provided the necessary authority is given them. General Hancock's nephew and staff officer, Captain Griffen, of New York, is wealthy, and is ready to do whatever is necessary. The Loyal Legion presented Mrs. Hancock with a fund of some \$21,000 and the people of Boston gave her a house in Washington which rents for \$1000 a year. The widow of the son Russell married again and of the only two grandchildren one is a cadet at West Point. It is plain that among the family, friends and people of Norristown, including the cemetery company, which is responsible for the disordered condition of the vicinity of the tomb, there should be little difficulty in placing the tomb in order. That is the only thing that ought to be done at

From, *Recorder*

Cornshocken

Date, *July 5 '95*

AN ANCIENT INN.

THE OLD SPRINGHOUSE TAVERN IN
GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP OF
THIS COUNTY.

Workmen are tearing away the massive walls of the "Springhouse Tavern," the oldest shelter for man and beast in the country round, and probably next to the Blue Anchor Inn on Dock street, Philadelphia, the most ancient inn in this country. Indeed, its beginnings are lost in a fog of local tradition, and the oldest inhabitant of Gwynedd township never heard from his grandfather just when the first cask of ale was tapped in the Springhouse tavern. It is certain that in 1698 the lowraftered house was the popular resort for wagoners and travelers on the pike road, and that the gushing spring in the cellar was known for many miles for the sweetest, coldest water that ever tempted a dusty-throated pilgrim to forsake the foaming mug of stronger brew.

Until two months ago the house had been occupied as a tavern and dwelling for more than 200 years without a break in the succession of dwellers therein. Indeed, half a century ago, the tavern was used as a schoolhouse for a time, and one old man of the neighborhood says that in his boyhood 70 children learned the "three R's" in the old place. They must have been wee and precocious

youngsters, for it would be difficult to pack 70 infants in long clothes in the little taproom downstairs

Springhouse is a bit or a hamlet a mile and a half back of Penllyn, on the North Penn branch of the Reading, about 20 miles from Philadelphia, consisting of a hotel, a store, blacksmith shop, and a few dwellings, whose back yards stretch away into billowy acres of farming land. On the hills around are many fine Summer houses owned by wealthy Philadelphians; but Springhouse proper is clustered about the fork of the roads that lead, one from Bethlehem to Germantown, and the other to Allentown and to the hamlets of Three Tuns and Horsham. Another tavern at Springhouse, dated back to 1719, and flourished until destroyed by fire eight years ago. But the original inn with the springhouse as a part of the building had been standing for many years before this respectably ancient date.

The house is modest, to say the least. The main room below stairs is not more than 20 feet square, rafted with rough hewn logs cut from the forest, that are still sound at heart. The fireplace in one corner is made from rough stone slabs, gathered from the fields, and blackened by the sooty layers of two centuries of huge back logs, and the fat savors of broiled rashers and the steaming burden of the crane. There is one room upstairs an attic with a steep pitch of walls where the roof peaks and two multipaned windows at the ends. Back of the main room is the springhouse or cellar, and above it a small room, entrance to which is made by a short stairway and a low opening, through which the guests must have crawled on hands and knees with candlesticks held high. The upper story can only be reached by this awkward ascent, and a bibulous royster, overtaken in

his cups, must have elected to sleep by the fire rather than attempt this laborious journey.

The tavern was not intended for use as a sleeping place. Food and drink, the pleasure of talk and the cheer of a welcoming blaze were furnished, but the guests for the most part were the farmers and teamsters who were enroute to the Germantown market; with their huge Conestoga wagons, produce laden. These hardy forefathers slept in their wagons and their lumbering arks were drawn up in long lines before the tavern in market time. Most of the farmers carried their provisions with them and ate in the open air, along rough tables furnished by the landlord. In October, 1804, Alexander Wilson, the ornithologist, with two companions, on a walking tour from Philadelphia to Niagara Falls, stopped over night here, and in his poem, "The Foresters," gives this account of the place.

"The road was good, the passing scenery gay,

Mile after mile passed unperceived away,
Till in the West the day began to close,
And Springhouse tavern furnished us repose.

Here two long rows of market folks were
seen,

Ranged out to front, the table placed between,

Where bags of meat, and bones and crusts of bread,

And crusts of bacon all around were spread

One pint of beer from lip to lip went round,
And scarce a crumb the hungry house-dog found;

Torrents of Dutch from every quarter came,
Pigs, calves and sour-kraut the important theme,

While we on future plans resolving deep,
Discharged our bill and straight retired to sleep."

Wilson emphasizes the frugality of the Pennsylvania Dutch farmers whom he met here, but it is probable that he saw them on their way to market, and had he fallen in with the

"two long rows of market folks" at a springhouse on their way back, their capacious pockets lined with silver shillings, one pint of beer would not have gotten further than the first lip.

The Bethlehem pike originally ran a full half mile from the Springhouse tavern, but the spring itself was so necessary for horse and man that the road was shifted to run close by the inn and its ever-flowing fountain. Until the North Penn Railroad came through the region, in 1857, this place was an important center of travel, and the long stone barns for stabling at the cross roads show that Springhouse was a flourishing rendezvous. In 1698 John Humphrey settled at this place, and the Friends held their first meeting. Mention is made of a road from the stone springhouse to the Pennypack Mills in 1702, and soon after the road was extended from Philadelphia by this place to the North Wales meeting house, a mile and a half distant.

Soon after pike roads were opened from Springhouse to Richmond, to Horsham meetinghouse, and the Goshenhoppen or Sumneytown road was constructed in 1745. Bethlehem began to be a town in 1731, and travel from the Lehigh River and from Allentown to Philadelphia, was centered in the road passing by the Springhouse. The old records show that Benjamin Davis kept the tavern from 1758 to 1772, and in April, 1756, Daniel Knuckler, on his way from Bethlehem to Philadelphia with six Indians in his charge, mentions stopping here. The first stage line passing through the present country was started in 1763, between Bethlehem and Philadelphia, making weekly trips and stopping at this inn. General Lacey mentions the "Springhouse Tavern" in his despatches of 1777, and the name is also mentioned

in a report of a raid made by the British in 1778. Of course General Washington made his headquarters here. The patriot leader never could have passed the open door with the great fire leaping redly within and the odor of "broilers" wafted through, without dismounting from his famous white charger and making his headquarters at least for over night.

Christian Dull succeeded Benjamin Davis as innkeeper and waxed mightily in the land. He came from Perkiomen way and moved to the Springhouse in 1762, where a few years later he was rated as owning a tavern, 8 acres of land, a horse and a cow. But Christian Dull was an ardent patriot and when the Revolution outflamed he raised supplies, obtained a captain's commission and got himself much disliked by his neutral neighbors. So,

sooner did the war close than slander was busy to ruin his reputation and business. In the Philadelphia Gazette of 1783 mine host Dull inserted an advertisement, offering a reward of 100 guineas for the author of a report that "he was privy in robbing a collector." Some of the disaffected neighbors while attending the Philadelphia market reported that Innkeeper Dull and his wife had been guilty of cutting the throats of more than one traveler who had stopped at their house for their valuables. To this Mr. Dull replied by another advertisement offering another reward. These malicious reports, of course, damaged business, but Christian Dull thrived and outlived most of his enemies, closing his career as a landlord in 1822.

After that another and larger hotel was built near by and the original Springhouse was not much longer the social focus for the life of the country round. For the last 25 years the inn has been part of the Hallowell estate

and is now being enlarged to serve as a more commodious dwelling house. The rough stone walls are nearly two feet thick, part of the weather-work shingling of the roof has been undisturbed for more than a century, and the square-shouldered, sturdy old chimney, fashioned of pick-up stones, has laughed at the gales of 200 years.

The chief claim of the Springhouse has been that it was almost the only one of the very old taverns about Philadelphia that had not been improved or altered since the first stones were laid.

108th ANNIVERSARY

THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE VISIT OF GENERAL WASHINGTON TO MT. JOY CELEBRATED.

An interesting anniversary celebration of the visit of General Washington to Mt. Joy, the colonial dwelling erected by Peter Legaux at Spring Mill was quietly celebrated on Monday by Miss Lucretia Righter, the present owner and occupant, who is a granddaughter of Legaux.

Legaux came from France in 1785. After prospecting for a suitable location in the neighborhood of Pottstown, he purchased the Mount Joy property which was a part of what had been known as the "Manor of Springetbury," so called in honor of Guilema Maria Springett, the maiden name of one of Penn's wives.

Since that time the property has been owned by Department Governor Markham, later on by the Morrisises, the well-known Whitemarsh Township family, and Samuel Miles, a Revolutionary officer, who was once captain of the First City Troop, of Philadelphia. It was he who named the place Mount Joy. The grounds surrounding the old mansion still bear evidence of the extensive vineyard which once existed there. The place was a source of supply

for a stock company under the title of the Vine Company of Pennsylvania, in which were interested such men as Governor McKean, Colonel Samuel Miles, Robert Morris, Stephen Girard, Citizen Genet, Aaron Burr, Dr. Rush, Alexander Hamilton, Casper Wistar, Dr. Edward Shippen and Peter Muhlenburg. The enterprise failed, the stock being purchased at the ninth Sheriff's sale, by John Righter, a son-in-law of Legaux. Legaux died on September 25, 1827.

At the time of Washington's visit the constitutional convention was in session in Philadelphia. The General had along with him a number of distinguished friends on this trip, as is shown by the following entry in Legaux's diary, for July 22, 1787: "This day General Washington, General Mifflin and four others of the convention, did us the honor of paying us a visit in order to see our vineyard and bee houses. In these they found real delight, asked a number of questions and testified their highest approbation with my manner of managing bees, which gave me a great deal of pleasure." A portion of this diary is still intact and in the possession of Miss Righter.

After being shown around the grounds, General Washington and the party took dinner in the old mansion, as mementos of which occasion, there is still preserved the table from which they ate, a large tumbler of honey, which was on the table and the chairs upon which the guests sat.

Miss Righter and her brother, John Righter, exhibited a number of the family relics to a few visitors who called. Among the exhibits were Legaux's sun dial, thermometer, the lightning rod he placed on the house, still in use, his three wires used as a meridian; his diary and other papers. The visitors were also conducted through an underground vault, the only one remaining of those constructed for storage of wine.

From, *Lucia*

Quaker town Pa

Date, *July 19 '95*

"QUAKERTOWN."

Read Before the Buckwampum Literary and Historical Association at Durham, June 15, 1895, by Miss Lizzie Yost.

Quakertown, as its name indicates, was settled by the Quakers or Friends. There appears to be a difficulty in ascertaining the names of those persons who erected the first buildings on the site of the borough. It appears that the "Commissioners of Property," by letters patent, dated in the year 1728, granted unto Morris Morris one thousand acres of land, on part of which the borough of Quakertown is now located. He built part of the house lately owned by Joshua Foulke and now by William Dengler, also the old spring-house which has recently been removed. Morris sold a portion of the land, including the buildings, to his son-in-law, Abel Roberts. He (Roberts) in turn conveyed the same to his son-in-law, Samuel Nixon. Either Abel or Samuel built the present house, and Samuel lived there until his death. Two of his daughters built the older part of the large building now occupied by Mary Steinhauer, and his widow married William Edwards, who lived in the old log house that stood at the corner of Broad and Sixth streets, which house was probably also built by him.

Benjamin Green came into the place about the year 1790, and bought and built an addition to the old frame house that used to stand where Charles Doll's buildings are now situated. His son William started the first store in the place in old house built by Moses Shaw, that stood where Jane Kinsey's house now stands, and occupied it until he built the large brick house at the corner of Broad and Main streets, in 1805. His brother, Dr. James Green, built the stone house recently occupied by Hannah Mather, and another brother, Dr. Benjamin Green, built the large brick one owned by the Kinsey heirs.

William Green was the first postmaster in the place, in 1803, and held the office many years.

The first tavern was kept in the old frame house bought by Benjamin Green, and was kept by a man named Zavitz during the Revolutionary War. The next was the old Red Lion, built by Enoch Roberts and kept by him for many years. He died at the age of 96 years, being hale and hearty to the time of his death.

The Abraham Barndt house and the old tannery were built by John Lester, the latter for his son Shipley, in the year 1792. Shipley afterward built the house now owned by Eliza Lott, and his brother Thomas the one owned by Joshua Bullock.

The tradition is, that when Solomon Freas, the leader of the local rebellion of 1799 against the payment of the tax on window glass, was convicted of treason, it was ordered that he should be executed at the Cross Roads in Quakertown, the intersection of Broad and Main streets. The gallows were prepared, but he was afterward reprieved by President Monroe.

In 1799 the government sent a body of one thousand soldiers to suppress the rebellion, and they encamped for some time at the spring in the meadow in front of the house now owned by H. W. Weiss. Relics of their stay are still extant.

The first meetings held by the Society of Friends in the vicinity were held at private houses until 1723, when a small meeting house was built on land donated by Edward Bolton, near where Wm. Shaw now lives. In 1730 they built a larger house on the present site, upon land leased of Morris Morris, in just what year we cannot say, but in 1759 Morris deeded ten acres of land to the society, and the next year the house was enlarged.

The traditional love of the Indians for the followers of Penn induced them to make the shade of the great old oaks surrounding the meeting house their resting place. Some of the older people who have now passed away could remember them sitting under the one that stood at the south end of the house, stringing their beads. The tree was five feet in diameter, and was blown down within the past two years, much to the regret of all who knew it.

Davis, in his history of Bucks county, speaks of the longevity and healthfulness of the citizens of this vicinity. To corroborate that statement it was found that within a distance of two hundred yards on Main street there were nine persons whose ages averaged 86 years and one month, seven others who averaged 74 years and four months, and eight others who averaged 62 years and three months. All but six of these owned the houses wherein they lived, and all but one were capable of attending to their household and out door duties regularly.

The records of the meeting show that

A MEMORABLE DAY.

Descendants of Peter Legaux Celebrate the Anniversary of Washington's Visit.

Special Despatch to "The Press."

Spring Mill, July 22.—To-day was the one hundred and eighth anniversary of a visit paid by General George Washington to the vineyard and bee colony of Peter Legaux, a unique Frenchman, who settled near Spring Mill, Montgomery County, one hundred and ten years ago. The colonial residence which he then built on an eminence a short distance back from the Schuylkill River, and which he called "Mount Joy," was yesterday the scene of a quiet but interesting anniversary celebration held by the present owner and occupant of the place, Miss Lucretia Righter, a granddaughter of the old Frenchman, Legaux.

Peter Legaux was a man of unexceptional qualities and possessed no little inventive skill, the fruits of which were manifest in his management of a bee colony and vineyard.

In 1785 he emigrated to this country from France, with the intention of settling in the vicinity of Pottstown. He, however, was so much pleased with the "Mount Joy" situation, then called the "Manor of Springettbury," that he made the purchase and established himself there in the already aged mansion. The name "Springett" was in honor of one of Penn's wives' maiden names, Gullema Maria Springett. At the time of Washington's visit the constitutional convention was in session in this city. The General had along with him a number of distinguished friends on this trip, as is shown by the following entry in Legaux's diary, for July 22, 1787: "This day General Washington, General Mifflin and four others of the convention, did us the honor of paying us a visit in order to see our vineyard and bee houses. In these they found real delight, asked a number of questions and testified their highest approbation with my manner of managing bees, which gave me a great deal of pleasure." A portion of this diary is still intact and in the possession of Miss Righter.

After being shown around the grounds, General Washington and the party took dinner in the old mansion, as mementos of which occasion, there is still preserved the table from which they ate, a large tumbler of honey, which was on the table and the chairs upon which the guests sat.

Since that time the property has been owned by Department Governor Markman, later on by the Morriszes, the well-known Whitemarsh Township family, and Samuel Miles, a Revolutionary officer, who was once captain of the First City Troop, of Philadelphia. It was he who named the place Mount Joy. The grounds surrounding the old mansion still bear evidences of the extensive vineyard which once existed there. The place was a source of supply for a stock company under the title of the Vine Company of Pennsylvania, in which were interested such men as Governor McKean, Colonel Samuel Miles, Robert Morris, Stephen Girard, Citizen Genet, Aaron Burr, Dr. Rush, Alexander Hamilton, Casper Wistar, Dr. Edward Shippen and Peter Muhlenburg. The enterprise failed, the stock being purchased at the ninth Sheriff's sale, by John Righter, a son-in-law of Legaux. Legaux died on September 25, 1827. To-day visitors at the place were shown many relics of the active old Frenchman, and were taken through one of the old wine storage vaults underground.

at one time there were four families who had forty children, ten each, every one of whom grew up to full manhood and womanhood, and made good and useful citizens wherever their lot was cast. At the wedding of the heads of two of these families, in 1799, seventeen of their children, nine of one and eight of the other, mostly grown, attended the wedding.

The temperance element was not very strong in the earlier days. It is in evidence that at the funeral of one of the most respected and wealthiest citizens there was a kettle of "battered rum" set between the gate and the house for all to partake of freely.

The changing of the people from the old ways seems to have been slow work, for the report of the committee of the monthly meeting that had charge of this matter for several years, was, in 1804, "That our testimony against the use of spirituous liquors has not gained much strength since last year." So far as known, it was not until the year 1834 when Richard Moore built the first large dwelling in the upper section of the county without the use of any spirituous or malt liquors among the workmen.

Things have changed since then, but there are still six places licensed to sell strong drink within the borough.

Quakertown was incorporated in 1854, with 45 freeholders. The population in 1870 was 863, and in 1890 it was 2200. The village of Richland Centre forms a part of the borough.

There are many industrial establishments, shops and stores, eight churches and a Friends' meeting house. Quakertown has long enjoyed a reputation for good schools. The Friends early opened a school for a higher grade, which became quite popular. Here also Rev. A. R. Horne opened a normal and classical school which was very successful. The first teachers' institute of the county was held at Quakertown in 1860. The town has at present ten schools and three school buildings.

From, *Press*

Philadelphia Pa

Date, *July 23 1905*

From, *Record*

Philadelp

Date, *Aug 4 1915*

The old stone meeting house in Lower Merion township, Montgomery County, which has withstood the passing of 200 years, will be the scene of a great celebration commencing on September 27 of this year. Historians and Friends and many outsiders who hold the proper veneration for age have signified their intention to take a part in the festivities attending the old building's anniversary. The little congregation that still remains (about 20 are present at the regular weekly meetings) have already planned extensive preparations to take care of the visitors. The meeting house would be well crowded with 200 people.



OLD LOWER MERION MEETING HOUSE.

TWO CENTURIES A CHURCH

Coming Anniversary Service at the
Lower Merion Meeting House.

HISTORIC HOUSE OF WORSHIP

Friends From Many States Will
Take Part in Exercises Celebrat-
ing the Anniversary of the
Venerable Edifice.

so a large tent will be erected on the adjacent grounds. Horses and carriages will be cared for in the hospitable style of years ago, which was, of course, limited to horses, for carriages are an innovation of a later date. The women will maintain a generous table during the two days which the celebration is designed to last, and the occasion will be in the nature of a historical jubilee.

On Saturday morning, September 28, essays and poems, for which the house and its memories supply ample subjects, will be read, and prominent speakers of

the Friends' Society and others are expected to address the people. The historical service will occur in the afternoon. Miss Walker, of Chester County, whose family has furnished members of the meeting since it was established, has accepted the onerous duties of historian, and her writings are replete with

interesting and accurate information. The vexed question of the exact age of the structure will be undoubtedly settled by her.

ERECTED IN 1695.

The corner-stone bears the date of 1695, and the records in the possession of the Society indicate June as the month when building operations were commenced. About October 1 the building was completed, and there still remains some discussion as to whether September 28 or October 5 should be the date of the celebration. One historian has stoutly asserted that the corner-stone date refers to the building preceding the stone structure, but his assertions have been generally disclaimed. The celebration will end with a religious service on Sunday, September 29. Some prominent speakers, among the Society of Friends who have been invited and have signified their intention of attending are Isaac Wilson, of Canada; Levi Benson, of Ohio, and John J. Cornell, of New York. The committee of arrangements consists of 10 persons, and George W. Hancock has been appointed chairman. Owing to the absence of several of the members the committee will not be called together until the last part of this month.

The Lower Merion meeting house is only about 14 feet high to the roof, and its greatest length is 36 feet, with a width of 20 feet. It is built of pointed stone, said to have been imported from England, but when repaired in 1829 it was plastered outside in imitation of large cut stone. The walls were built with an eye to endurance and stability, and are a full two feet in thickness. On the same site, secured from Edward Rees for the moderate sum of \$2.50, a log cabin formerly stood and the Quakers worshiped there until the erection of the present meeting house. Before that time meetings were held in the house of Hugh Roberts, the original of the old Roberts family in this State, and an ancestor of George B. Roberts, president of the Pennsylvania Railroad, was the first to be married in the historic meeting house.

HISTORIC BUTTONWOOD TREES.

A cluster of staid old buttonwood trees surround the house, and one of these, now of full and ancient growth, was planted by an ancestor of Colonel Wendell P. Bowman. Some six or eight years ago a stroke of lightning demolished one of these trees and impressed forcibly on the minds of the devout Quakers that their modest place of worship had been spared through the long centuries by the kind care of Providence. During the Revolution, while the British occupied Philadelphia, the inhabitants of Lower Merion suffered severely from the depredations of the British soldiers. Midnight raids were frequent, but the little Quaker meeting house was never molested.

To the lover of antiquity the house and its possessions form a fertile field for research. The small leaded window panes are the true products of the seventeenth century, and many like them now exist in England, silent reminders of the merry days of King Charles. A

stone block still stands before the meeting house, on which the demure Quaker maidens and the more robust matrons used to alight from their horses. Luxurious vehicles were unknown in that poorly roaded country, and the women were forced to ride on sober and, perhaps, antiquated steeds. This stone served also as a place to mount, and no other object in the city can boast of a more intimate acquaintance with the delicate but plainly-shod feet of real colonial dames.

In the interior stands an old oak table, curiously carved and heavily constructed, on which it was the ancient custom to lay the marriage certificate. The last couple to lay their certificate there were Benjamin Hunt and Hester Price, who entered wedlock more than 60 years ago. Miss Price was a direct descendant of Edward Rees, who had presented the land to the first congregation. William Penn and his august contemporaries have worshiped in the Lower Merion Meeting House, and the pews and floor, although replaced many times since then, still retain the interest occasioned by the Quaker Governor's presence.

A QUAIN BURYING GROUND.

The burying ground next to the meeting house bears many evidences of age. Inscriptions are few, and those which do exist are half-buried in the ground. Many sturdy citizens of whom Philadelphians have every reason to be proud rest in that graveyard with no words to perpetuate their memory. Among those who are known to rest there are the ancestors of the Roberts and George families, including Jesse George, who dedicated to the city that part of Fairmount Park now known as George's Hill. The bones of Colonel Bowman's ancestors lie there, as do those of the old members of the Levick and the Zell families.

In the days when the stone meeting house was erected the country about was settled almost entirely by Friends, and in some old letters one can read

how the devout ones came early to be sure of a seat. The gallery was in use then, but for many years it has not harbored a single worshiper, except upon extraordinary occasions. Death and backsliding have seriously impaired their numbers, but the members of the diminished congregation steadfastly adhere to their ancient faith and venerable meeting house.

THE STATE'S OLDEST MILL

Quaint Grinder of Ancient Grists on
the Banks of the Pennypack.

ONCE A WHARF FOR SHIPPING

Reminiscences Recalled at Crumb-
ling Flour and Saw Mills of

Holmesburg Now Regarded as Sacred Relics.

The old stone grist mill on the bank of the picturesque Pennypack Creek, at Holmesburg, which has withstood the ravages of time for 198 years, is at last to be partly taken down as a dangerous ruin. Workmen are now at work removing its towering gable ends, and a brick elevation which rises above the second story of the side walls immediately over the main entrance, on the west side of the mill.

A train of interesting recollections of the early settlement of Holmesburg and the surrounding country is sure to pass in rapid review through the mind of the old-timer as he stands on the great slab of roughly-fashioned stone which forms the top step leading into the old mill, and looks down on what was once the basement, where the water wheel stood. The ground—for there is now no longer any floor there—is overgrown with tall, rank weeds; but the water from the old race still flows rapidly and in a large volume through the forebay and out at the tail race back into the Pennypack again, just as it has been doing since 1697, when the mill was built. Lying around on the ground inside are some of the charred timbers and heavy iron work of the once revolving water-wheel, together with portions of the crumbling walls.

Time did not work all this destruction, however, for had it not been that a fire swept through the mill in 1880 those old-timers would yet have been in place, and the walls would have been as solid as when the mill was built.

ONCE THE CENTRE OF GRIN GROWING.

Not a vestige remains of the two floors where the miller of the olden days trod and watched the revolving burrstones as they ground the grist brought by farmers from far and near. The mill, which is said to be the oldest in the State, was once the centre of a wheat-growing country of great extent, for it was the custom in those days to bring grain from across the Delaware River in New Jersey to be ground there, as well as the wheat and corn that grew in the domain of William Penn.

And in those early days the miller invariably collected his pay in tolls, taken in the proportion of one-fifth from each grist ground. Naturally, therefore, the mill which did a large business had much more flour to sell than was demanded for consumption in the immediate neighborhood.

Tradition had it also that in those days the Pennypack had depth of water sufficient to float, at high tide, small sailing vessels, such as small brigs and brigantines, trading with the West India Islands. These vessels could work their way up from the Delaware River, about one mile distant, and take in cargoes of barreled flour for their foreign trade.

Back of the old grist mill stands the tumbling ruins of the old frame saw-mill, which did duty sawing logs for the settlers when that country abounded in the finest white oak and hickory known to exist on this continent, and

HOLMESBURG'S PICTURESQUE OLD MILL.



some few such trees yet remain.

PONDEROUS BUT TOPPLING DOWN.

Part of the old log-carriage and saw-frame, built of heavy timbers, still recall the days when the monotonous screeches from the mill echoed through the neighboring wooded hills and glens. These, too, are silenced now; and ponderous as everything around the old mill looks, it would not be safe to venture inside of it.

Valuable water-power and all the attending rights go with these mills. It was strong enough to drive the wheels and machinery in those early days, but would hardly alone, it is said, drive the more powerful machinery needed for an electric plant in these days.

The mill properties belong to George Pennock, who inherited them from his father. Friend Pennock—for he belongs

to that society commonly called Quakers —has such reverence for the old mill that he will not suffer a single stone more to be taken from the gables than the building inspectors shall order to be taken down.

The mill stands on Mill street, east of the Bustleton branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad, and is regarded by the citizens of Holmesburg as a sort of sacred ruin that should be left standing.

From, *Lucie*
Philadelphia Pa

Date, *Aug 4 '95*

THE TRAGEDY 76 OF DEEP CREEK

A REMINISCENCE OF THE CIVIL WAR
IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY.

WHERE BILL TOWER IS BURIED

The Deserter Who Murdered Captain Bertolet, the Enrolling Officer, in 1863, and Was Convicted and Hanged in Philadelphia—His Lonely Grave in Frederick Township Recalls an Incident That Aroused Great Excitement Among the Stone Hills,

"Whose grave is it? Why, ain't you ever heard of the time we had up here in '63, with Captain Bertolet and Bill Howe? That's where Bill is buried."

The subject of remark was a little mound in the corner of a field in Frederick township, in the upper end of Montgomery county. A rough, flat stone, taken probably from the ground near by, marked the head of the grave, and a smaller one indicated the foot. There was no inscription to tell of the man's virtues or his people; no "zum andenken," or "Hier ruhet," as is the fashion in the graveyards hereabouts; simply the grass-covered mound six feet long, and its rude markers to tell to-day of the close of the tragedy of Deep Creek.

It's a long, hard drive up into that country. The road from Perkiomenville leads into a rugged, hilly and unresponsive land; one that produces abnormal crops of boulders and cedar trees. The farm houses and barns do not compare favorably with the traditional Pennsylvania Dutch buildings of the same character. Dilapidated worm fences, thickly hedged with blackberry hushes or poison ivy, abound there, instead of the business-like post and rail fences of the prosperous farmers in other parts

of the country away from the "stone hills." It is not a very inviting section of country, unless one is up there for no very practical purpose; but it is Pennsylvania's "Sleepy Hollow," and if it is ghost stories and romances and tragedies one is looking for, then it is worth the hardship of sticking to a carriage seat for a few miles of the trip, even though the day be hot and the wheel tracks worse than an old Philadelphia cobbled street.

The tragical story of Abraham Bertolet's taking off is an incident that formed the subject of volumes of talk in its time. The older people still remember it distinctly—until you find from the next man who tells of it that there is an essential difference in some of the details; although they all agree in the main facts, viz.: that United States Enrolling Officer Bertolet was shot, that William Howe shot him and was hanged for it, and that the criminal was hurled over there in the cornfield underneath the cedar trees.

The scene of the tragedy is a little one-story-and-a-half stone house about three miles or less from Perkiomenville. It is like lots of other houses in the same neighborhood, with its front yard full of old-fashioned flowers, arranged in all the beautiful simplicity of no arranging whatever. Great stalks of pink and white and purple hollyhocks in all their richness of velvety color, and blue flags, and phlox, and sweet-williams, and honeysuckle seemed piled into the bit of a yard, and over the whitewashed picket fence in such confusion and in such extravagance of bloom, as to suggest the thought that a man with a hay wagon load of the flowers couldn't have driven up and tossed the beauty in more richly or with greater profusity. A fine big ash tree stood at the back of the house, giving grateful shade to the place. Near one corner of the yard was an old well, with a wooden windlass and its moss-covered bucket; and the whole picture was one that the observer would associate with anything else in the world rather than a crime that made widows and orphans almost in the twinkling of an eye.

It was in "sour cherry time" thirty-two years ago that it happened.

William H. Howe enlisted in Company A, 116th Regiment, August 8, 1862, Colonel Heenan commanding. The regiment for several weeks had been in camp in a woods at Hestonville, and on the 31st of the month it was mustered into service, with seven hundred muskets, and soon ordered to the defenses of Washington. About two months later the regiment was sent to Harper's Ferry, where it was attached to the "Irish Brigade," and the history of those gallant soldiers gets the names of most of them that survived its long list of battles and skirmishes into the stories of such memorable actions as Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor, Petersburg and Appomattox. It gives the names of the two hundred and twenty-nine of its soldiers who died in service an honored place on "fame's eternal camping ground."

"Bates' History" contains only a few words of the military career of William Howe, but they are awfully cold-blooded. There really isn't room in the single line that tells his name, residence, date of enlistment, and "Remarks," to recite his bravery at Fredericksburg, where he was

live to bring the regimental colors to the field; of the deadly work he did with an Enfield rifle, when he had discarded his musket and gone on the field again with the skirmishers, and stayed all the rest of the day and all that night; for he was a good shot, and he was proud of it. His life in the hills along the Perkiomen had given him a practical use of his gun that made him very good company when there was shooting going on, although his reputation was none of the best until he went into the army.

That's all left out of "Bates' History," to which you'll be sure to be referred the first thing when you ask after William Howe. It was left to his counsel and friend later on, at the time of his trial by court-martial, to find out that he had some strong points, and that personal courage and an indomitable will were a couple of them. When near to capture he swam the Rappahannock, and escaped under circumstances that would have appalled most men.

And then to have all that good record spoiled by his unwillingness to take his chances with the regimental doctor—so it was said afterwards—in an attack of inflammation of the bowels. Doesn't it seem strange that men will do remarkable deeds, will be heroes of Arctic expeditions, hunters, Indians fighters and the like—and yet at some crisis will fail utterly, and the whole fabric of their greatness come tumbling about their ears?

Howe remained with his regiment until

to look him up. Howe was a deserter.

The enrolling officer lived up at the "Swamp," or New Hanover, as it is now called, and it was his business to arrest such as were neglectful of their obligations to the government in the manner Howe was. One evening Bertolet and three men arrived at Weand's tavern, a mile or so from Howe's place. Up in Frederick the people will tell you to-day of the stop they made, how the men drank more or less, while their valor grew with every drink. Bertolet boasted openly that he had come for Bill Howe, and that he would take him alive or dead; if they had to shoot him, he'd carry first-rate across the saddle-bow.

Of course, Howe had his friends, and one of them was Augustus Bitting, who, by the way, was also enlisted in the same company with Howe, and who had come home with him. (It might be mentioned in passing that "Bate's History" is singularly uncommunicative about Bitting; it says that his name was not on the muster roll at the time of its disbanding.) But Bitting remembered his friend all right, and put him on his guard about the intended effort to arrest him at his house that night of June 21, 1863, and so, when Bertolet and his men called on Howe somewhere about midnight, they didn't exactly surprise him.

Just alongside the door at the back part of the house is a little many-paned window. Looking inside you can see a door opening out from the stairway which leads into the



THE SCENE OF THE TRAGEDY.

the 26th day of December, 1864. Then he and about twenty others who were afflicted determined to go to Washington for treatment; but unfortunately he overlooked the formality of getting the kind of leave he should have gotten, and still more unfortunately, he failed to recognize that the 116th Regiment had claims upon him which were somewhat blinding. He went home from Washington instead of going to rejoin his command, and was there nearly two months when Enrolling Officer Bertolet came

second story. The men were working at the door outside, trying to force it—so it was afterwards reported—when Howe came downstairs armed. He looked through the window and saw a man with a lantern standing about eight or ten feet away on the further side of the slat stone pavement, directing the operations of the men at the door. It was the work of a moment to fire two shots at the breast of the man with the lantern, to dash back up the stairs, jump out that window in the end of the house, take to the woods and escape the arrest.

which the imprudent enrolling officer had planned. Bertolet received both charges and fell dead.

Then they carried the dead man around to the further end of the house and laid him under a cherry tree—"Do 1st die platz!" so it was indicated to me—while one of the deputies hurried off to Enos Boyer's and got a wagon in which they drove home with their ghastly burden.

Howe eluded capture until the 13th of July when he was apprehended in a saloon in Allentown. An acquaintance, Milton Richards, saw him and Augustus Bitting go in the door of the place. He informed a police officer who then made the arrest. The following day he was taken through Norristown to Philadelphia, where in the following February he was tried by court martial for killing Bertolet.

Notwithstanding the able presentation of Howe's good record by his counsel, Edmund Randall, the court found him guilty and sentenced him to death. The execution was to have taken place on June 24, 1864, but a stay was secured and additional efforts on technical grounds were made to save the doomed man. His counsel applied for a writ of habeas corpus to bring Howe before court for his discharge on the ground that he was not amenable to trial by court martial. The case of Archibald Tore, a noted one in the Irish rebellion of 1798, and almost identical with Howe's, was cited in support of the motion, but Judge Cadwalader refused to interfere. The execution was again fixed for Friday, August 26, 1864, and the prisoner returned to Fort Mifflin.

Later on he was removed from there after an almost successful attempt to escape by means of tunneling, and confined in the Eastern Penitentiary, where he remained until the morning of the day set for the execution. Then an ambulance and a guard of three men took him back to the fort, where his crime was expiated. As Howe stood facing the sally-port of Fort Mifflin, looking out into the sky for the last time, he read a brief address in which he defended his action stating that he had not sought the death of Bertolet and gave his reasons for leaving his regiment, and said that his sentence of death was undeserved. Then he turned toward the wall, the cap and noose were adjusted and in a few minutes the last act in the tragedy of Deep Creek was over.

It was a great day in that part of the county when Howe was buried. Excitement ran high in a community like that at the time of the shooting and during the progress of the trial. The sympathy of the public was with the accused man all through and against enrolling officers in general, and more enthusiastic residents are said to have urged resisting Howe's arrest to the last. So it may be imagined that the closing scene in the affair would be calculated to draw out a great crowd of people. The funeral services were held in Keeler's Church and were conducted by the Rev. Henry Wendt, who then ministered there, but the Council refusing to permit the interment in the churchyard, the body was laid in that nameless grave in the hills, within a stone's throw of the scene of the tragedy that was his undoing.

From, *Herald*
Pottstown Pa

Date, *Aug 6 '95*

POTTSTOWN'S PROGRESS.

A Sketch of the Foundation and Development of This Enterprising Town.

With the first edition of this paper, The Herald has prepared for its readers a brief synopsis of our flourishing town, its industrial, educational and general business advantages. Pottstown lies along the north bank of the Schuylkill River, 20 miles from Norristown, 18 from Reading and 36 from Philadelphia. It was first laid out in September, 1752, by John Potts, son of Thomas Potts, who purchased 990 acres of land of Samuel McCall, and was known as Pottsgrove. The following year (1753) Mr. Potts built a fine mansion on the west side of Manatawny Creek, which is standing in good preservation, owned by Henry H. and Jacob H. Gable, and known as Mill Park Hotel.

The original town of Pottsgrove as laid out only extended to Charlotte street, but when it was incorporated as the Borough of Pottstown, in 1815, the limits were made larger and extended from Manatawny to Adams streets on the east, and from the river to Beech street on the north. Its original area was 268 acres but in 1888 it was again extended and now contains over four times that extent of territory.

Among the early residents may be mentioned the families of Potts, Rutter, Dewees, Hockley, Gilbert, Paul, Thompson, Warley and others. The first public house stood between King and Chestnut streets west of Hanover.

The first house of Worship was built by the Society of Friends, and was located on King street on the site of the present meeting-house of that religious denomination. The Old Brick Church (now Zion's Reformed) was built in 1796 and is the oldest church edifice in town.

On September 10, 1784, the County of Montgomery was formed, and in October, 1793, the first post-office in the county was established at Pottsgrove with Jacob Barr as post-master. The name of Pottsgrove P. O. was continued until January 28, 1829, when it was changed to Pottstown. In 1830 the census gave the borough 676 inhabitants; in 1840, 721; in 1850 it had more than doubled itself and numbered 1664; in 1860 it contained 2380; in 1870 it had 4125 and in 1880, 5305; in 1890 it grew to 13,285, and is estimated now at about 16,000.

In 1842 the borough was divided into two wards, the East and West wards; in 1871 the East ward was divided into the Middle and East wards and in 1882 the Middle ward was divided into the Second and Third. The extension of the borough in 1888 created four new wards the Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth. In January, 1889, the East ward was divided the Fourth and Fifth and in 1891 the Eighth ward was divided into the Eighth and Tenth wards.

The oldest iron works here were built in 1846 by Henry Potts and Hon. David Potts, Jr., known as the Pottsgrove Iron Works, now the Potts Bros.' Iron Works. These works which now include a puddle and boiler-plate mill, is an old stand-by of our borough, and is running steadily at the present time. The Pottstown Iron Company was organized in 1866, the first rolling mill now owned by the company nevertheless having been constructed in 1863 by William Mintzer and John E. Wotten. The works have been continually enlarged and now include the Upper and Hope puddling mills, the plate mill, nail factory, 65 and 112 inch mills, universal mill, blast furnace, steel plant, etc. This is one of the finest and most complete plants in the country, and was the main stay of Pottstown until it passed into the hands of receivers several years ago, since which it has only

been running in several departments. The Philadelphia Bridge Works of Cofrode & Saylor, occupying large shops in the eastern suburbs, adjoining the Pottstown Iron Company, was likewise a strong factor in our general prosperity until it passed into the hands of receivers, since which it has been lying almost dormant.

The Warwick Iron Company commenced the erection of their furnace in 1875 and completed it in 1876 and this industry has worked uninterruptedly, except for repairs from the date of its erection to the present time.

Probably one of the soundest and busiest of our iron industries is the Ellis & Lessig Iron and Steel Company which operate a large puddle and plate mill and nail factory in the western suburbs. This is but a young industry in the iron age of our country, but has worked its way up to the front and now enjoys unexcelled prosperity. The Glasgow Iron Company with its puddle and plate mills at Glasgow and its steel plant above town is also an important factor in our town's development.

The Mechanic's Boiler Works of Sotter Bros., show what pluck and industry and good mechanicship can accomplish. The four Sotter Brothers came here from Reading several years ago and established themselves in business in the old building (now torn down) on Beech street and began their career as boiler manufacturers. In a few years they found their quarters too small and bought a tract of land adjoining the Warwick Iron Company and erected commodious shops where they have enlarged their business, until today their products are sought for the world over. They have not been idle since starting and ran all through the industrial depression which affected our country from shore to shore. Several smaller iron industries: Guest's foundry, Milligan's foundry, Stillman & Saylor's machine shops, etc., round up our iron manufactories and Pottstown may be distinctively classed as an iron town. Within the past year efforts have been made to locate other diversified industries here and the erection of the Bannockburn Textile Mills at Bramcote was the first step towards placing our town in a position, so as not to rely directly on the iron trade and its fluctuation's. Since then several shirt factories, hosiery mills, etc., have been started, together with cigar and cigar box factories, and this new branch of industries has also opened an avenue of employment for our female population, which aids greatly in the general prosperity of the town. Pottstown affords superior advantages for the location of industrial works of all kinds, lying within

easy touch of New York and Philadelphia and having the advantages of splendid railroad facilities in the Philadelphia & Reading and the Pennsylvania lines, which pass through the town. The town is also healthful for a place of residence, and enjoys splendid schools, churches, public parks, etc.

The public schools are among the very best in the state and the large number of graduates who are yearly entering professional and business careers bear testimony to that fact. There are 22 school buildings and 57 schools, which are presided over by a force of 62 teachers, 12 male and 50 female. The number of pupils which attended during the school year of '94-'95 nearly reached 3000 and the scholars, with a very few exceptions, take a decided interest in their work.

Another institution of high reputation and extended patronage is The Hill School, a preparatory school for college, founded by the Rev. Dr. M. Meigs in 1852 and now ably and successfully conducted by his son Prof. John Meigs. Students from all parts of the United States attend this school and the increased patronage has compelled the proprietor to erect additional buildings and conveniences until the "Hill" is regarded as one of the finest and best conducted institutions in the country.

Pottstown has splendid business advantages, and many of our leading business houses are equal to the Metropolitan stores. Lying within short reach of the large cities, our merchants are enabled to get their goods at the lowest wholesale prices and the slight additional freight charges, counteracted by cheaper rents, enable them to sell in direct competition with Philadelphia and New York, and thus the retail trade can purchase their commodities at city prices. Our neighboring towns of Royersford, Spring City, Boyertown, etc., trade largely with our merchants and the thickly populated country districts, of which Pottstown is a business centre, pour the products of the soil into the coffers of our business men, and each are supremely happy.

From, *Times*

Philadelphia PA

Date, *Aug 14 '95*

FOREFATHERS' DAY AT MERION

Grand Bi-Centennial Celebration to be Held

at the Old Meeting House Next Month.

Lower Merion Friends' Meeting House, the oldest church in Pennsylvania, was built in 1695, on the site of a still older log church. Preparations are in progress for the bi-centennial of the founding of this ancient edifice next month.

To-day is the 213th anniversary of the day upon which the first Welsh colonists of Lower Merion arrived in the Schuylkill from Merionethshire, North Wales, two months before the arrival of William Penn himself.

In 1681 John ap Thomas and Edward Jones, of Merionethshire, North Wales, purchased from William Penn a tract of 10,000 acres in the new colony. These 10,000 acres were included in the "Welsh Tract," extending westward from the Schuylkill and now in the counties of Philadelphia, Montgomery, Delaware and Chester. Edward Jones and his company of forty persons and seventeen families embarked from Liverpool in the ship *Lyon*, arriving in the Schuylkill August 14, 1682. According to one account the *Lyon*, being a small vessel, proceeded up the Schuylkill to Pencoyd, where the first Welsh settlement was made. According to another the *Lyon* anchored near the mouth of the Schuylkill and the Cambrian sires rowed up to Pencoyd in boats. Five days after the arrival of the ship *Lyon* Edward Jones and family settled at Wynnewood, claimed to be the earliest regular Quaker settlement in Pennsylvania, disputing the honor with Pencoyd.

A Quaker Meeting was organized immediately among the Welsh colonists. For a number of years the most prominent preacher was Hugh Roberts.

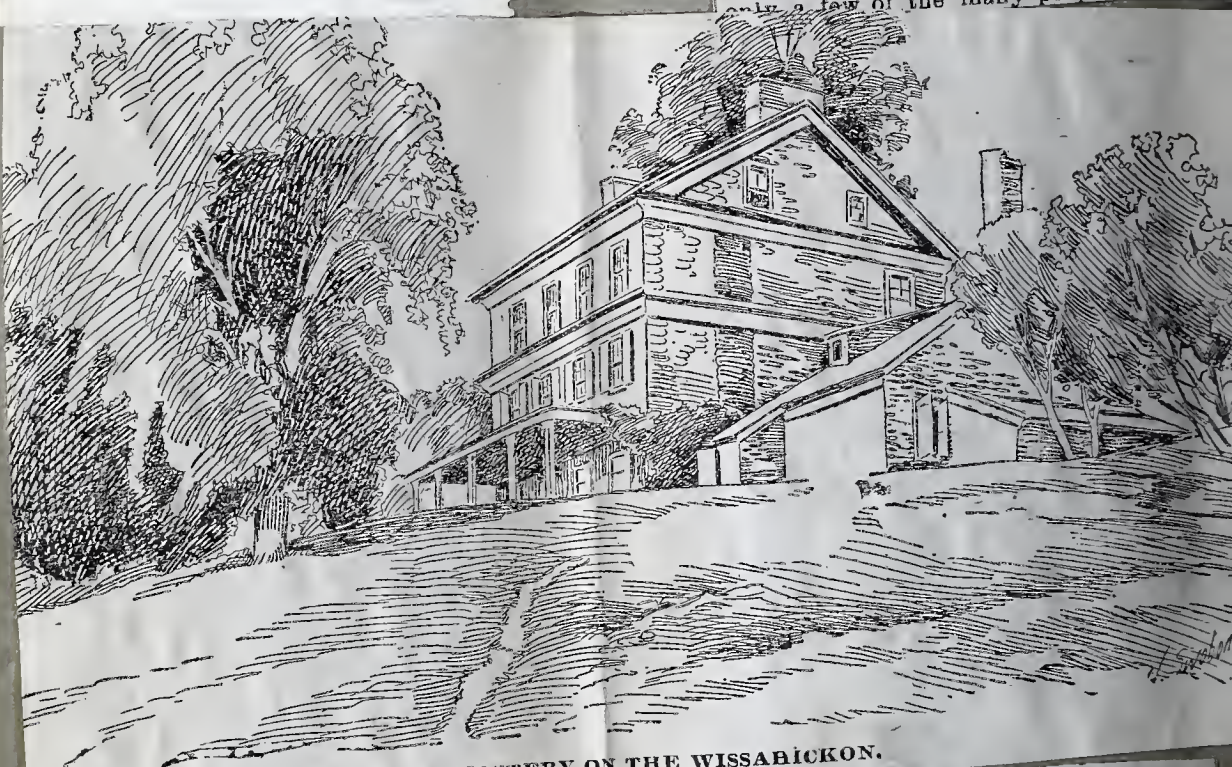
Colonists from Wales poured into the Welsh Tract so rapidly that in 1686 there were four score settlements. The Welsh named the townships of Merion, Radnor, Haverford, Tredyffrin, Whiteland, Caln, Gwynedd, Uwchlan, Nantmeal and others. From these Welsh forefathers are descended some of the best-known characters in American history. Nearly all the great statesmen, poets and soldiers of Pennsylvania ancestry have a strain of Welsh blood in them.

A movement has already been started in Merion to have the date of the arrival of the ship *Lyon* celebrated in future as Forefathers' Day. Merion Meeting House, successor of the log building, stands on the old Lancaster road adjoining the old General Wayne Tavern, about seven miles from the Philadelphia City Hall. It is two miles from Pencoyd, or Manayunk, and one-half mile from Narberth station, on the Pennsylvania Railroad. It is in Lower Merion township, Montgomery county, about one mile west from the city line. The style of architecture is quaint and picturesque, displaying three pointed gables and steep, sloping roof, with old-time pediments across the gables and little flying porticoes over the doors. In the gable facing old Lancaster road may be seen the tablet bearing date 1695. Around the meeting house stands a fine grove of buttonwood trees, maples and evergreens. In the peaceful graveyard, enclosed with a substantial stone wall, rest the remains of the forefathers and kinsfolk of some of Pennsylvania's proudest families. Merion Meeting is mentioned in Revolutionary history. In a map in the Pennsylvania Archives, second series, vol. X, it appears marked on a plan of the battle of Germantown. The Americans encamped in a neighboring field September 14, 1777, a few days before the massacre of Paoli.

It is expected that the coming bi-centennial celebration will clear many obscure points in local history and render possible an intelligent celebration of Forefathers' Day next year.

From, *Yaguier*
Launcaster PA
Date, *Aug 17 '95*

of history until every stone in the commodious mansion and every bit of ground in the vicinity possesses interest. About a mile above the red bridge, on a bluff on the east bank of the Wissahickon, stands the monastery, not quite as grim and gray as one would fancy it, because a busy farmer lives there now, but conclusively showing in its outline and composition the great age which historians attribute to it. On the west side the Wissahickon drive goes on up past Indian Rock, but only a few of the many people on foot



THE MONASTERY ON THE WISSAHICKON.

EARLY DUNKERS.

Historic Interests Cluster About
the Wissahickon Monastery.

IT IS NOW A PEACEFUL FARM HOUSE.

A Quaint Old Pile of Stone in Which
the Monks Lived.

Of all the old buildings still standing in eastern Pennsylvania, whose walls and casements have witnessed the joys and sorrows of colonial days, the old "Monastery of the Wissahickon" tells a strange and most romantic story. Popular superstition has built upon the meagre details

and in carriages, who enjoy that scenery, ever trouble to peer through the trees and catch a glimpse of the staid old monastery. No one knows when it was built. It was not there in 1684, and it was there in 1739.

The meditative monks who walked those floors and enjoyed religious communion in the surrounding solitudes were known as Dunkers. Sworn to celibacy and persecuted alike by Catholics and Protestants, they received a warm welcome in the land ruled by the broad-minded policy of William Penn. They settled in Germantown, but their queer beliefs and curious customs led them to seek a refuge in the wilderness. The rugged beauty of the Wissahickon which, under the care of the Park Commissioners, is still the pride of the city, pleased the old fathers, and the site they selected is one of the most romantic along the course of the little stream. In the seventeenth century it

was a wilderness, indeed. The settlement at Germantown was miles away and Roxborough was still a primeval forest.

STONES WERE THEIR PILLOWS.

Before the monastery arose John Kelpius, a strange old ascetic, lived in a cave across the creek. He gathered followers about him, and the good people of the city spoke mysteriously of the "Hermits of the Ridge." The strange acts and moody silence of the monks gave a full impetus to the popular superstition. Clad in cowl and gown they would march in single file into Germantown, with their heads bowed and long gray beards reaching below their waists. Beds of any sort were too luxurious for the sturdy recluses, and until a comparatively recent period the stones that served for pillows remained on the monastery floors.

Vague stories of an underground passageway leading far into the hills were told by gossiping people of that day, and dungeons possessing all the tortures of the Spanish Inquisition were supposed to exist among the rocks that form the monastery foundation. These legends have never been substantiated, but as the property has never been in the hands of persons disposed to conduct an investigation, no one knows but what the cells and dungeons may still exist under the feet of the merry pleasure-seekers who throng that part of the park. It is more than probable that the monks had arranged some safe retreat from the Indians who wandered through those woods. Certainly, the old blockhouse, long since destroyed, which stood on the banks of the creek a mile below, bore the marks of many a savage battle. Indians there were, and of woodsmen not a few, who perished there because the policy of William Penn was imperfectly supported. Assault after assault might have been made against the big stone monastery without result, but the fathers were prone to ways of peace and meditation.

THE POOL FOR BAPTISM.

A shady pool in the Wissahickon, just below the bridge that leads to Kitchen's lane, was named by the monks "Baptistion," and there, with only the rocks and trees to witness the ceremony, they performed the sacred rites of baptism. How they lived and what they did are told in the record of the Dunkard colony still in existence at Ephrata, but to the people of Philadelphia they have left only an interesting old structure adorned with

many legends.

Directly back of the monastery the farmer's cows graze contentedly over all that remains of its former tenants. The monks were buried, it is said, by weird midnight rites, but no stones were erected to mark their resting places and their mounds have at last been levelled with the ground. Eventually members of the brotherhood lapsed into conjugality and the others joined the principal colony at Ephrata.

During the more than 100 years that have passed since the last monk moved away the house has passed through many hands and has served a variety of uses, but the name of monastery still clings to it. Monastery avenue, leading from the Indian Rock Hotel to Ridge avenue, takes its name from the home of the monks of long ago.

IMMORTALIZED BY FANNY KEMBLE

The monastery and the surrounding grounds have always been a favorite place with people who appreciate the wild beauties of nature. The famous actress and authoress, Fanny Kemble, who resided in Philadelphia for some years, delighted in visiting the historic stone house. With Pierce Butler, who afterward became her husband, she roamed through those woods and wrote a poem on the Wissahickon, in especial reference to that romantic spot. This poem was read before Congress at Washington by William D. Kelley, during his speech advocating Government aid to the Philadelphia Centennial.

The monastery now has the appearance of an old but well-kept farm house. It is three stories high and some of the old windows have been walled in with stone. All around it are remnants of buildings of a later date, which have not been able to withstand the test of time. Leaning columns and gable ends, all built of stone, form a convincing proof of the honesty of purpose and knowledge of architecture which marked the builders of the monastery. The old roof was of the sloping variety, extending down to the second story, which marked all the structures of that time, but the storm of 1887 tore off the eaves and demolished the roof. This has since been replaced in modern style. The blackened stones at the foot of the bluff are the remnants of an old mill which stood for time out of mind, but was finally burned, while being used in the manufacture of flax. Some of the old machinery is still discernible among the stones.

From,

Press
Phila & Pa

Date,

Sept 8 '95

to the cities and the West, inspired by the same longing for opportunities of piling up possessions more rapidly than the toil of the farm can yield. One rarely finds a town left to decay in our thickly settled region of country.

Valley Forge is dear and familiar, in name at least, to every American, as soil forever consecrated by the martyrdom of the Revolutionary Army. The name tells its story of patriotism and self-sacrifice, such as the world has seldom seen, and the wooded hills about Valley Creek are thick sown with the memories of Washington and his ragged, starving Continentals. The quaint stone-



THE STONE BRIDGE.

A Deserted Village.

Historic Valley Forge, Once the Busy Scene of Thriving Industry, Is Sinking Rapidly to Decay with Mills and Factories Abandoned.

The tales of vacated towns, melancholy wrecks of a transient, restless civilization, are familiar in the annals of Western life. There, cities have arisen in the night, tumultuous with the fevered excitement of the gold-seeker and with the exhaustion of treasure field, the tide of frontier humanity has swept on, leaving long streets of dwellings, business blocks, churches and saloons to crumbling desolation. The abandoned homesteads scattered through New England tell still sadder stories of the migration

house that was the dwelling of the Commander-in-Chief through the dreary Winter, the grassy mounds that once mounted the clumsy artillery of the American Army, the one remaining grave-stone of a Connecticut militiaman and the dimly traced cellars of the street of log huts on the hill slope are visited by hundreds of sightseers each year.

But Valley Forge has more than historic charm. The little town slumbers in one of the most beautiful valleys in Pennsylvania, and its prosperity is a



THE WOOLEN MILL.



THE "SHODDY" MILL.

part of its past. The massive stone mills are silent, the broad water tumbles over the old dam in play, instead of being fettered to turn the wheels of factories, and the rows of stone tenements where hundreds of busy men and women lived and went to and from the mills, are tenanted by two or three families, one to a dozen or more dwellings. Valley Forge is again a farming hamlet, and the village that grew up in manufacturing industries is deserted. The relics of the thlning years are picturesque in

neglect, and have lost the prosaic air of order and prim prosperity that are born of the utilitarian and money-grabbing mind.

Another Goldsmith may find at Valley Forge another "Deserted Village" as romantic and sweetly melancholy as the English hamlet pictured by the English poet. For more than 130 years Valley

Forge was the home of artisans, and only within the last decade have the sounds of forge and machinery ceased to echo from the environing valley hills. The creek winds down a narrow valley for three miles, and then spreads into a lake where the green hills recede to form a basin half a mile from where the stream leaps into the Schuylkill in a riotous welcome of cascade. The water-power is sufficient to operate half a dozen factories, and the stream's utility was discovered as far back as 1757, when the original forge gave the valley its name.

Close by the river there stands a rambling collection of mill buildings that have stood idle for half a dozen years. The mill nearest the stream was operated as a dye and print works, with the creek for motor power. Adjoining

is an extensive plant flanked by a tall brick stack that leans toward the road at a startling angle, and defies the law of gravity with an air of confident recklessness. This was formerly a paper pulp mill and a hundred hands were employed in the cluster of buildings. Both of these industries were moved nearer to the city many years ago under the stress of competition, and the mills left for the vines to festoon their gray and weather beaten walls and the clustering foliage to hide their angles and ugliness.

Just above these mills, the old stone dam crosses the stream, and backs the flow into a lake half a mile long that sparkles like a turquoise in its darkly green setting. By the moss grown dam stands the five-storied stone mill where weaving of cotton and woolen fabrics was carried on for three-quarters of a century, until 1882. The massive walls are good for another century, but the windows gap empty in the weather tinted sides, and the silence of desolation is about the place. This mill is very old. It was in direct line of succession to the first forge in the valley, and the story must go back to that early day. Isaac Potts and his brother John, those stout pioneers who founded Pottstown belonged to a family among the earliest to settle in this region. The original "Valley Forge" was built about half a mile further up the stream than the present dam, and was in active operation in 1757, founded and owned by the Pott's family. The farmers of Montgomery and Chester Counties were supplied with whatever iron work they needed, and all was peace and mild prosperity until the Revolutionary War.

A marauding band of Hessian troopers swooped through the valley in the Autumn of '76, and reckoning not without reason, that the humble forge by Valley Creek was of service to the American army, raided and burned the log hut. But the Potts family had no idea of abandoning the pleasant vale, and when the war was over, a second forge was built near the site of the present dam and mills. The building of a new dam inundated the ruins of the old forge whose remains were lost to future historians. Business thrived, and the second forge was abandoned for more extensive operations and the ruins were to be seen in the twenties. Several of the old army buildings were left on the Chester County side and near the end of the century John and

Isaac Potts started a slitting mill in one of them, where iron ore from across the Schuylkill was worked. In 1814 the property passed to John Rogers and Joshua Malin and continued to be held in the Rogers family down to the present day. The slitting mill was enlarged and rebuilt about 1820 and a three-story stone building, erected for the manufacture of hardware. This is the building that stands by the dam.

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THE PAPER PULP FACTORY

saw factory after a few years, which James Wood operated in connection with a rolling mill which he built. In 1821 he began to make cast steel for turning into saws. Next the mill came into the hands of a gunmaker from Sheffield, Eng., and 20,000 muskets were turned out in a few years. The gunmaker added two stories to the mill and left it as it stands to-day. The rolling mill was washed away by a freshet and this was the end of metal working in Valley Forge. About 1830 the stone mill was turned into a cotton factory and cotton goods, bed ticking, etc., were made in large quantities.

Until 1857 the mill saw no more vicissitudes and then the failure of the lessee left the place idle for four years. With the opening of the Civil War Joseph Shaw began the manufacture of Government kerseys and from the sixties until 1882 the rows of stone tenements were filled with operatives and woolen fabrics were fashioned without an interruption. The pulp mill and a shoddy mill near the railroad station gave employment to the whole town and Valley Forge was as prosperous a manufacturing village as could be found in Eastern Pennsylvania.

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These rows of crumbling dwellings look like a bit from the old Spanish

ness.

Of course, there is a ghost in the row. No "haunt" who appreciates the value of suitable surroundings could pass these deserted places. A year ago last Winter the station agent at Valley Forge was waylaid by a negro while going to his home at night, and shot the highwayman through the heart in self-defense. The negro lived in one of these lonely old ruins and his spirit naturally haunted his former home. No negro family would dwell in this house for free rent and a bonus. Several years ago the superintendent of the woolen mill, Clugstone by name, was murdered at night at his home in the village, and this crime adds a bit more



A ROW OF TENEMENTS.

quarter of St. Augustine, or an alley-side in an Italian town. The walls are dull and gray, some of them half hidden in vines and moss, and the undergrowth from the woods in front has crept to the worn stone doorsteps. One row of a dozen dwellings faces the lake and the willow trees on the bank, and looks toward the tumbling fall that pours over the high stone dam with a never ceasing song that is a lullaby to the village by night. Beyond the dam is single arch of the stone bridge beneath which the water dashes laughing, and back of the stream is the rising slope of woodland, where Washington once knelt to pray, and the wall of the old stone mill.

The pine forest is always crooning drowsily with the wandering breeze and murmurs responsively to the song of the stream. The scene is very beautiful in the Summer time, and it is good for people with nerves and worries to be there. In this row of houses last referred to there is one family of colored people and their over-abundance of living room rather accentuates the loneli-

to the uncanny atmosphere that enshrouds the old houses.

It is said that the spirits of the dead Revolutionary soldiers flit along the hill-sides on stormy nights and visit the shadowy spots where they once gathered around the camp fire, and that ghostly camp fires have been seen flickering among the trees on starless nights and the faint echo of a challenge and countersign from the lips of spirit sentinels. The people of Valley Forge have lived for so long in this reputed realm of haunting martial spirits that a ghost or two in the deserted tenements by the stream do not cause them much uneasiness.

The unacclimated Summer visitor may be excused for shuddering at the thought of a midnight ramble through the valley, nor is it to be expected that the colored valley dwellers are proof against the fear of "haunts." For they can find a ghost with greater ease than their white brethren, owing to racial inheritance, and if no colored member of the Valley Forge community is willing to stir out of doors after dark without firmly grasping in his right hand "de ief' hin' laig ur a graveyard rabbit killed in de dark o' de moon," it's really no one else's business.

From, *Home News*

Bryn Mawr PA

Date, *Sept 13 1895*

MERION CHAPTER'S

Fifth Pilgrimage.

Merion Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, made their fifth historic pilgrimage on Tuesday afternoon, Sept. 3rd. They visited the "Old Black Horse Tavern," corner of Old Lancaster Road and City Avenue, thence proceeded to "Wynnstay" where they were entertained by the Misses Wynn and Mrs. Compton.

Miss Hannah Wynn Compton displayed a grape-shot, dug up on the spot, a relic of the Revolutionary skirmish at the Black Horse.

A vote of thanks was passed to Miss Kate Scheetz of Mill Creek, for her kindness in sending the Chapter several pieces of the "Dove Mill" paper, with water-mark of the dove with the olive-branch, such as was used by the Government in early days, when the U. S. capital was at Philadelphia.

Following is the historical paper.

THE BLACK HORSE AND WYNNSTAY.

Our fifth historic pilgrimage has brought us in sight of the "Black Horse Tavern," on the Old Lancaster Road, corner of City Avenue, just within the borders of Lower Merion township, on a portion of the historic 5,000 acres settled by the early Welsh.

This antiquated hostelry, with its ample proportions, its picturesque roof and chimneys, its pretentious piazzas and its quaint accessories (as iron-barred shutters and brass door-knocker), is well-nigh as ancient as the "General Wayne," about a mile further up the road. The General Wayne claims to be at least 185 years of age. It is safe to set down that of the "Black Horse" as 180. Quite a good "Black Horse," even yet!

The old building, however, is no

longer used as a hotel. It has been at various times, a summer boarding-house, or a private residence.

How many of our friends and neighbors are aware that the vicinity of the "Black Horse" was the scene of a battle or skirmish?

What is known of this action is mostly derived from a letter of General James Potter, recorded in Vol. VI. of the "Pennsylvania Archives."

The autumn and early winter of 1777 was an exciting period. With the startling events of the Brandywine, Paoli and Germantown following each other in quick succession, it is no wonder that many minor happenings have been lost sight of.—Among these were the operations of General Potter on the west side of the Schuylkill. It appears that Blockley and Merion suffered greatly from the ravages of British foraging-parties, and that General Potter was kept quite busy in protecting the inhabitants and annoying the enemy.

General Potter's letter is herewith given entire, with the spelling unaltered. It is well known that some of the bravest of Revolutionary officers were better adepts with the sword than the pen. Also, that the scribes of a hundred years ago paid far less attention to the niceties of orthography than school-children do to-day. The "Archives" and other old documents are notorious for their misuse of capitals and their peculiar phonetics.

This letter of General Potter is found on page 97 of Vol. VI. "Pennsylvania Archives," first series. It reads as follows:

Sir. Last Thursday, the enemy march out of the City with a desire to Furridge; but it was Nesseceréy to drive me out of the way; my advanced picquet fired on them at the Bridge; another party of one Hundred attacked them at the Black Horse. I was en Camped on Charles Thomson's place, where I stacconed two Regments who attacked the enemy with Viger. On the next Hill I stacconed three Regments, letting the first line know that when they were overpowered, the must Retreat and form behind the second line, and in that manner we formed and Retreated for four miles; and on every Hill we dis-

puted the matter with them. My people Behaved well, espealy three Regements, Commanded by the Cols Chambers, Murley and Leacey. His Excellency, Returned us thanks in public orders:—But the cumplement would have Been mutch more substantale had the Valant General Solovan Covered my Retreat with two Devisisions of the Army, he had in my Reare; the front of them was about one half mile in my Rear, but he gave orders for them to Retreat and join the army who were on the other side of the Schuylkill, about one mile and a half off from me; thus the enemy Got leave to Plunder the Countrey, Whech the have dun without parsiality or favour to any, leaving none of Nesscereys of life Behind them that the conveniently could Carrey or destroy. My loss in this Action I am not able to Assartain as yet; it is not so mutch as might be expected. The killed don't exceed 5 or 6; taken prisoners about 20; wounded about 20; with the enemy acknowledged the got the worst of this Action; there light hors Suffered mutch for they Charged us.

I am your Excellancy's
most obedant

Humble Servant,

JA. POTTER.

P. S. His Excellancy was not with the Army when this unlucky neglect hapned; the army was on there march and he had not come from his Quarters at Whit marsh.

Chester County Camp at Head Quarters, Dec. 15, 1777.

Directed

On public service.

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, Esq.
at Lancaster.

Thomas Wharton, Jr., was then President of the Supreme Executive Council, that is, President of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, under the Constitution of 1776. General Potter, himself, became Vice-President in 1781.

From this letter of General Potter, it would seem that the action, begun at the Black Horse, was continued throughout the greater part of Low-

er Merion and beyond Constonocken.

Your historian was puzzled by the word "Bridge." It is generally believed that, at that time, there were no bridges across the Schuylkill.—The "Middle Ferry" was at the site of the present Market Street Bridge, the "Upper Ferry," the Spring Garden Street Bridge, and the "Lower Ferry" was "Gray's Ferry." But, from the Obituary of Col. Edward Heston, in the *Saturday Evening Post*, of February 21, 1824, it appears that Washington had caused the erection of a temporary bridge across the Schuylkill to facilitate the passage of his army. The exact date of its construction is not given.

We all know the location of "Chas. Thomson's place." It was at Harriton, near Bryn Mawr—in fact, Chas. Thomson's mansion was the original Bryn Mawr, built by the Welsh scholar and preacher, Rowland Ellis, in 1704.

A few days after this successful skirmish, General Potter encamped in Chester County. His letter of description is dated December 15, 1777. The next day, he wrote another letter to President Wharton, telling how his (General Potter's) battalion had crossed the Schuylkill and had a skirmish with the enemy near Chestnut Hill. In this letter, he speaks of the barbarities inflicted upon the person and property of Col. Anthony Morris, whose house was want-only destroyed and who was cruelly slashed and cut with a sabre. No one can study the history of that period without being shocked by the needless barbarity of British warfare. This was only a short time after the atrocious Massacre of Paoli.

This Col. Anthony Morris was the ancestor of Mrs Anna M. Holstein, the County Regent for Montgomery County, Daughters of the American Revolution, and Chapter Regent for Valley Forge Chapter, D. A. R. Mrs. Holstein is also Regent of the Valley Forge Centennial and Memorial Association.

It was while General Potter was conducting his operations on the west bank of the Schuylkill that he received aid from Col. Edward Heston, founder of Hestonville. This ought to be of particular interest to Merion

Chapter, as four of Col. Heston's descendants have entered the chapter on the strength of that aid.

From the *Saturday Evening Post*, of February 21, 1824, we learn that, while General Potter was encamped near the "Gulph," Cornwallis left his quarters in Philadelphia, intending to take General Potter by surprise. Cornwallis crossed the Schuylkill during the latter part of the night. Col. Heston, being on the alert, had lodged that night a short distance from home; about day-break, the enemy was discovered approaching his farm, near what is now 52d Street Station, Pennsylvania R. R. A British soldier captured Col. Heston's horse. The Colonel hurried on foot to one of his neighbors, borrowed a horse, and, with all possible speed, rode by a circuitous route to General Potter's camp in time to warn him and rouse the whole battalion. Col. Heston then rode back to Philadelphia and met Washington who, with his army, was just crossing the temporary bridge over the Schuylkill. In consequence of Col. Heston's warnings, the British had the mortification to miss their anticipated conquest.

This account gives no dates. But we can approximate the date of Col. Heston's valiant action from the "Colonial Records." In Vol. XII, p. 69, 70, may be found the following:

"In the Supreme Executive Council, August 10, 1779.

Joseph Reed, President.

An Order issued to Lieut. Col. Edward Heston for Two Hundred Dollars for services done to General Potter, from the 14th of November, 1777, to the 3d of January, 1778, as certified by the said General at four dollars p. day."

Col. Heston, also distinguished himself at the time of the Battle of Germantown. He was one among others, who, in consummation of a plan laid down by Washington, to cut off the enemy's retreat from Philadelphia, went to the Middle Ferry, and assisted in cutting away the rope which extended across the river, notwithstanding there was a continual fire kept up by the enemy on the opposite bank.

It was his misfortune, at one time

while reconnoitering the enemy's movements, to be taken prisoner, by a troop of British horse. A brutal trooper cut him in the head with a sword, giving him a mark which he carried till his death. This capture took place on the old Ford Road, near the "Five Points," just beyond Bala Station. (Mr. Edward Heston, of Cynwyd, is authority for this latter statement. The preceding ones are from the above-mentioned Obituary.)

Our Chapter is always proud to tell the outside world that our star member, Mrs. Louisa Heston Paxson, aged 94, is the daughter of this Col. Heston.

Mr. Thomas Wynne, of the George Institute, Hestonville, has told us that, when he was a boy and lived up here at "Wynnstay," he gathered up quantities of bullets and grape-shot, which were unearthed by the plough. At one time he had quite a large box filled with the Revolutionary missiles. He did not then know that a battle had been fought in the immediate neighborhood. The action at the "Black Horse," accounts for their great number.

Only a few weeks ago, a rusty grape shot was dug up, here on the spot.— It belongs to Miss Compton, who will be pleased to show it to us.

The sight of this old-time ball makes us realize, as nothing else could, that we actually stand upon a Revolutionary battle-field.

"Wynnstay," was the original name of the old Wynn place. It was so marked on the early maps. This tract of country, east of City Avenue, was a part of 1,000 acres purchased by Dr. Thomas Wynne and John ap John, in 1681. It was named after "Wynnstay" in Wales, and was comprised in old Blockley township. By stepping across an imaginary line, we tread upon the property of the father-in-law of Edward Jones, whose property was on the Merion side.

This Dr. Thomas Wynne was a notable character in those days. He was the first Speaker of the First House of Representatives in Pennsylvania; a Judge in the Provincial Courts; Magistrate of Sussex County, Delaware; friend and physician of William Penn; a scholar and Quaker preach-

er A great number of famous characters, Revolutionary and otherwise were descended from Dr. Wynne, among them John Dickinson, author of the "Farmers' Letters," and Generals John and Lambert Cadwallader.

The old Wynne mansion still stands down there in the hollow, as you may see, alongside the antique Pennsylvania barn.

That old mansion, during the Revolutionary period was occupied by the family of Lieutenant Thomas Wynn, of the "Philadelphia Flying Camp," a great-grand-son of the first Thomas Wynne.

While Blockley and Merion were suffering from the ravages of British foraging parties and while Lieutenant Wynn was away from home in the service of his country, a number of English soldiers attacked the old Wynn mansion. It was bravely defended by Mrs. Thomas Wynn, assisted only by her children and servants. The English it is said, at length broke into the house and searched high and low for valuables, even cutting open the beds. But the marauders found nothing that they wanted, except some loaves of bread and a barrel of liquor. The last vanquished them. They fell helpless, to be captured by a party of American soldiers who came that way. The story goes on to say that a skirmish followed, in which three or four British were killed. These were buried in the woods back of the old house. It is to be regretted that we do not know more of the details—the brief outline of the tale, such as we have, certainly contains the elements of dramatic interest.

Of course, the Chapter is proud to say that among the members are descendants of this brave "Colonial Dame," who defended her home, and of her Revolutionary husband, who fought for his ancestral domain. And we can appreciate our high privilege in being entertained on that portion of Dr. Thomas Wynne's historic land-grant, which is still held by his descendants to the seventh generation.

It is not to be supposed that this brief paper has exhausted the history of this immediate neighborhood.

The "Old Black Horse" adjoins a large farm which for about 150 years

has been in possession of the Stadelman family. On Scull and Heap's Map of 1750 appear the names "Wenn" and "Stradelman." This is enough to show that the Pennsylvania German element followed the Welsh and appeared in Merion, at quite an early date. Now, the Pennsylvania German element, particularly during Colonial and Revolutionary days, was a decidedly strong one. Its great influence in building up the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has never had full justice done it, except, perhaps, by Judge Samuel W. Pennypacker. It is to be hoped that we may be able to give it proper attention when we come to study up the "Old Dutch Church," near Ardmore.

Michael Stadelman and William Stadelman are both mentioned in the "Colonial Records" as "dieting" American soldiers.

Just above the "Black Horse," on the "Old Lancaster Road," in the shadow of an enormous old chestnut tree, stands a modernized house once the residence of a Revolutionary soldier, Jacob Latob. It is told of him that, while his company were at Valley Forge, he obtained a furlough, came home and spent his holiday in making shoes for his destitute comrades.

And just above the Latch House, stood, until recently, an old barn, for many years the property of the Harvey family. It is said that, at one time, two American soldiers, being pursued by a British foraging party, took refuge in this old barn and hid beneath the hay. The British suspected their place of retreat, and, with the customary barbarity, slashed through the hay with their swords until they had found the Americans, and then mercilessly hacked them to death.—These were among the unnamed and unnumbered patriots, of whom we can find no record, but who just as truly gave their lives that our nation might live, as any hero whose deeds are recorded in tablets of marble or brass.

And it is these local annals, concerning people and places that we know, which really constitute history. The Daughters of the American Revolution are teaching this lesson to every locality in the land.

From, *Local News*

West Chester Pa

Date, *Sept 14 1895*

OF VALLEY FORGE

NOTES OF THE VILLAGE WHERE WASHINGTON WATCHED AND PRAYED.

And too, it was There Where Thousands of Brave Bearers of Muskets Hungered and Suffered From the Biting Blasts of a Cheerless Winter and All in the Name and for the Cause of Freedom.

Valley Forge is dear and familiar, in name at least; to every American, as soil forever consecrated by the martyrdom of the Revolutionary Army. The name tells its story of patriotism and self-sacrifice, such as the world has seldom seen, and the wooded hills about Valley Creek are thickly sown with the memories of Washington and his ragged, starving Continentals. The quaint stone-house that was the dwelling of the Commander-in-Chief through the dreary Winter, the grassy mounds that once mounted the clumsy artillery of the American Army, the one remaining grave-stone of a Connecticut militiaman and the dimly traced cellars of the street of log huts on the hill slope are visited by hundreds of sight seers each year.

WHERE IT SLUMBERS.

But Valley Forge has more than historic charms. The little town slumbers in one of the most beautiful valleys in Pennsylvania, and its prosperity is a part of its past. The massive stone mills are silent, the broad water tumbles over the old dam in play instead of being fettered to turn the wheels of factories, and the rows of stone tenements where hundreds of busy men and women lived and went to and from the mills, are tenanted by two or three families, one to a dozen or more dwellings. Valley Forge is again a farming hamlet, and the village that grew up in manufacturing industries is deserted. The relics of the thinning years are picturesque in neglect, and have lost the prosaic air of order and prim prosperity that are born of the utilitarian and money-grabbing mind.

Another Goldsmith may find at Valley Forge another "Deserted Village" as romantic and sweetly melancholy as the English hamlet pictured by the English poet. For more than 130 years Valley Forge was the home of artisans, and only within the last decade have the sounds of forge and machinery ceased to echo from the environing valley hills. The creek winds down a narrow valley for three miles, and then spreads into a little lake where the stream leaps into the Schuylkill in a riotous welcome of cascade. The

water power is sufficient to operate half a dozen factories, and the stream's utility was discovered as far back as 1757, when the original forge gave the valley its name.

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ABOVE THE HILLS.

Just above these mills the old stone dam crosses the stream, and backs the flow into a lake half a mile long that sparkles like a turquoise in its dark green setting. By the moss-grown dam stands the five-storied stone mill where weaving of cotton and woolen fabrics was carried on for three-quarters of a century until 1882. The massive walls are good for another century, but the windows gap empty in the weather-tinted sides, and the silence of desolation is about the place. This mill is very old. It was in direct line of succession to the first forge in the valley, and the story must go back to that early day. Isaac Potts and his John, those stout pioneers who founded Pottstown, belonged to a family among the earliest to settle in this region. The original "Valley Forge," was built about half a mile further up the stream than the present dam, and was in active operation in 1757, founded and owned by the Potts' family. The farmers of Montgomery and Chester counties were supplied with whatever iron work they needed, and all was peace and prosperity until the Revolutionary War.

A SWOOP OF HESSIANS.

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A CHANGE.

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Then one by one the mills were closed. They could not compete with industries along the Schuylkill, near Philadelphia, and when the pulp mill was moved away and the others were abandoned, the village sank into rural repose. The operatives drifted away, and as the centre of a smiling farming country and a resort for visitors in the summertime, Valley Forge is alive. The people hope that the mills will be re-opened, but the place will never regain its ancient prosperity. The visitor hopes that factory life will not again invade the valley and mar the peaceful beauty of the landscape and destroy the tangled wilds around the mills and the dam and the tenements.

MOULDERING TENEMENTS.

These rows of crumbling dwellings look like a bit from the old Spanish quarter of St. Augustine, or an alley-side in an Italian town. The walls are dull and gray, some of them half hidden in vines and moss, and the undergrowth from the woods in front has crept to the worn stone doorsteps. One row of a dozen dwellings faces the lake and the willow trees on the bank, and looks toward the tumbling fall that pours over the high stone dam with a never ceasing song that is a lullaby to the village by night. Beyond the dam is a single arch of the stone bridge beneath which the water dashes laughing, and back of the stream is the rising slope of woodland and the wall of the old stone mill.

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A GRIM SPECTRE IN IT.

Of course, there is a ghost in the row. No "haunt" who appreciates the value of suitable surroundings could pass these deserted places. A year ago last winter the station agent at Valley Forge was waylaid by a negro while going to his home at night, and shot the highwayman through the heart in self defense. The negro lived in one of these lonely old ruins and his spirit naturally haunted his former home.

No negro family would dwell in this house for free rent and a bonus. Several years ago the Superintendent of the woolen mill, Clugstone by name, was murdered at night at his home in the village, and this crime adds a bit more to the uncanny atmosphere that enshrouds the old houses.

It is said that the spirits of the dead Revolutionary soldiers flit along the hill-sides on stormy nights and visit the shadowy spots where they once gathered around the camp fire, and that ghostly camp fires have been seen flicking among the trees on starless nights and the faint echo of a challenge and counter-sign from the lips of spirit sentinels. The people of Valley Forge have lived for so long in this reputed realm of haunting martial spirit that a ghost or two in the deserted tenements by the stream do not cause them much uneasiness.

The unacclimated summer visitor may be excused for shuddering at the thought of a midnight ramble through the valley, nor is

it to be expected that the colored valley dwellers are proof against the fear of "haunts." For they can find a ghost with greater ease than their white brethren owing to racial inheritance, and if no colored members of the Valley Forge community is willing to stir out of doors after dark without firmly grasping in his right hand "de lantern" laig uv a graveyard rabbit killed in de dark o' de moon," it's really no one else's business.

From, *Lucie*

Mornington Pk

Date, *Sep 16 '95*

REOPENING OF A CHURCH

A Red Letter Day in the History of
Trinity Lutheran.

ALL DAY SERVICES YESTERDAY

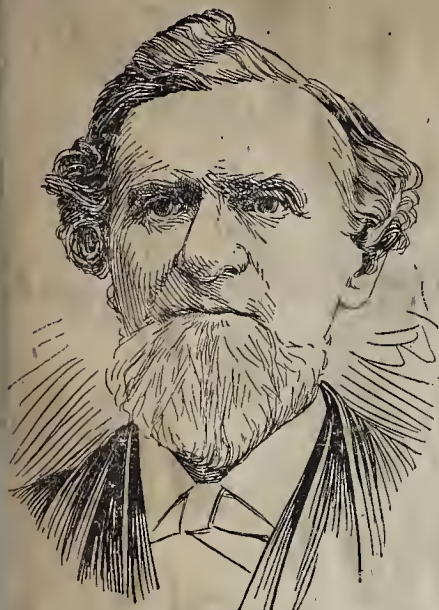
Prominent Clergymen Take Part in An
Imposing Event—The Work of the Re-
building Committee Approved—Sketch
of Pastor and Church.

Under the most auspicious circumstances, and in the presence of an audience that filled every available space, the re opening exercises of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Trinity were held yesterday morning. The church has been closed for several months, during which time the main audience room has been thoroughly remodeled, and the expressions of approval and commendation from the members of the congregation and the visitors yesterday convinced the building committee that their work had been well done. The extensive improvements undertaken and carried to successful completion were fully described in Friday's TIMES.

Promptly at 10.30 o'clock yesterday morning the vestry of the church, consisting of A. W. Geiger, president; Samuel E. Nyce, secretary; William Stahler, treasurer; George Wolf, S. R. Fisher, H. S. High, T. B. Evans, A. H. March, M. L. March and W. H. Richardson, marched up the main aisle of the church, followed by the following clergymen, in full Lutheran vestments: Revs. I. C. Hoffman, H. L. Baugher, D. D., A. S. Fichthorn, A. J. Weddell, Jacob Fry, D. D. LL. D., and H. E. Jacobs, D. D., LL. D. The officers took seats in

seats reserved for them, while the clergymen advanced to the pulpit.

The epistle for the day was taken from Galatians 5th chapter, 16th verse, and the Gospel for the day from St. Luke, 17th



Rev. A. J. Weddell, Pastor Emeritus.

chapter, 11th verse. Both of these were read by the Rev. I. C. Hoffman, of Chester.

The sermon was preached by the Rev. Jacob Fry, D. D., LL. D., pastor of Trinity Church, Reading. He took for his text Ephesians, 5th chapter, 27th verse: "A glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing." He congratulated the congregation on having preserved their building, and having made it so cheerful and attractive as the changes wrought. He referred to all who had assisted in the work, and praised the pastor, congregation and the humblest workman who had a share or part in the duties assigned to him. Referring directly to the text selected he divided his remarks into two main thoughts—First, showing what constituted a glorious church; second, bringing to the minds of his hearers the process by which this glorious church is attained. For over half an hour the eloquent doctor held his hearers with rapt attention, and at the conclusion of his discourse the Rev. Mr. Fichthorn announced the gifts that had been presented to the church to beautify and adorn it.

After the closing hymn had been sung the consecration services were read and the doxology sung. The clergy and vestry filed out in the order in which they had entered, after which the audience dispersed.

The regular choir, under the leadership of Mrs. W. F. Dannehower, was augmented by a number of well-known vocalists. At both morning and evening service Prof.

Winchester Barton sang a baritone solo. The organ was presided over by Mrs. K. B. Jacoby, the church organist. Both the vocal and instrumental music were of a high order.

Early on Saturday morning a telegram was received stating that the Rev. T. L. Seip, D. D., LL. D., president of Muhlenberg college at Allentown, had met with an accident which would prevent him from being present and preaching the morning service, as had been arranged. In response to an urgent telegram from Mr. Fichthorn the Rev. Dr. Fry, of Reading, kindly consented to fill the place thus made vacant by Dr. Seip's accident.

Mr. Reuben Baer, a prominent layman of Trinity church, at Lancaster, was also in attendance. He donated one of the handsome memorial windows, in memory of his brother, the Rev. Charles A. Baer, who was a former pastor of Trinity church, Norristown.

In the afternoon the Sunday school held its session in the church, and the time was devoted to addresses by Revs. Fry and Jacobs, and an interesting history of the school by the superintendent, Mr. Henry Lehman. Mr. Lehman has been connected with the school since 1851, and his reminiscences were of a pleasing character. The exercises were interspersed with hymns by the scholars.

The Evening Exercises.

The evening session was largely attended, the congregations of Grace and St. Paul Lutheran churches uniting in the services. Their pastors, Revs. Robert Roeder and J. S. Niemann assisted in the exercises.

Dr. Jacobs gave a scholarly address on the subject "The Debt of Christianity to the Lutheran Church," and Prof. Baugher gave a vigorous talk on "The Young People and the future of the Lutheran church."

The Rev. Mr. Roeder in a short address extended the congratulation of the sister churches to Trinity church on the beauty of the edifice and the great improvement that had been made by the changes.

There were liberal offerings by the congregation at both services.

The Present Pastor.

The Rev. Andrew S. Fichthorn is a native of Lewistown, this State. He was educated at Gettysburg College, graduating in 1884 and received his ministerial education in the Gettysburg Seminary, graduating in the class of 1887. He was Professor of Greek and Latin at Carthage college, in Illinois, for a year. Later he had charges at Lutherville and Tyrone, this State. At a congregational meeting held in May, 1894, he was called to Trinity church, Norristown, and assumed his duties here June 1, 1894. He has been particularly successful in his work here, and has added materially

to the strength of the congregation. He is exceedingly popular among the young people of his church, and his progressive ideas and popularity have borne fruit in the splendid house of worship in which he now presides.

Historical Sketch.

The following is the principal part of an historical sketch of Trinity Church, prepared by Rev. A. S. Fichtthorn:

The beginning of Lutheran effort in Norristown takes us back to the year 1845. In the fall of that year services with a view to establishing a Lutheran church were held in the old Academy building at the corner of DeKalb and Airy streets. The services were held in German and the enterprise ended in disaster, for the Rev. William Rally, who had charge of it, contracted small-pox, was disabled for a considerable time by that disease, and with his illness all attempt at service ceased.

After an interval of three years—in 1848—the ministerium of Pennsylvania, then in session at Easton, appointed the Rev. A. T. Geisenheimer missionary to Norristown. He assumed the duties of his office July 11, 1848. Services were held in the store room at the corner of Swede and Chestnut streets, belonging at that time to Philip Geilinger, who gave the mission the use of the room free. Soon after a congregation was organized and at a meeting held September 4, 1848, a Board of trustees, consisting of Henry Lehman, Samuel Hoffman, William Kerper, Henry Kerr and John R. Breitenbach, was appointed to solicit subscriptions, buy a lot and build a church. Subscriptions to the amount of \$650 had been secured and a vacant lot at the corner of Chestnut and Church streets obtained, when trouble began, brought about by the perennial language question. The demand was made by the German element in the congregation that the morning service should invariably be in German. This demand led to division. The missionary and part of the members bought 60 feet of the lot on which the present church building stands, for \$1325, and contracted with Bolton & Christman for the building of a stone church 42x55 feet, to cost \$2648. The corner stone was laid April 17, 1849. The Rev. Mr. Geisenheimer gave up the mission and removed from Norristown, being succeeded by Rev. R. S. W. Wager, who took charge on the 27th of August following. Early in October the basement was finished, a Sunday school organized there and services in German and English began. December 30, 1849, the church was finished and dedicated; the Rev. C. S. Welden, of Chester county, the Rev. H. C. Miller, of the

Augustus Church at Trappe, and the Rev. C. W. Schaeffer officiating. The first permanent council of the church consisted of Christian Nace, Madison Craig and George Bayer, elders; and Samuel High, Levi Eckels, Levi Strahley, Philip Heavner, Josiah Christman and Frederick Gilbert, deceased.

The first communions in the new church were held, one on the 20th of January 1850, the service being in the German language, and another a week later in English. Some of the original communicants are represented in the congregation by their descendants to-day. Two are still living, Mrs. Christiana Charles, and Margaret Walker, now Margaret Case. From this period to August 21, 1859, the records show that the history of the congregation was simply a chronicle of rapidly changing pastorates. In 1851 Mr. Henry Lehman, who has been identified with the congregation from its earliest beginning, began his long service as superintendent of the Sunday school, a position which he still holds.

The election of Rev. Charles A. Baer to the pastorate on August 21, 1859, marked the beginning of a new era in the history of the church. New life showed itself in every department. The congregation and Sunday school outgrew their limited quarters and the agitation of the question of a new building began. During the year 1863 the old church was torn down and a building committee, consisting of the Rev. Mr. Baer, William Kerper, Mr. Poley, Henry Lehman and Samuel High, secured additional ground on the present site and arranged for the building of a new structure, the contract for which was assigned to Samuel Huston & Son. The corner stone was laid August 6, 1863, Dr. Krotel, Dr. Krauch and others officiating with the pastor, and by courtesy of the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church the services after the formal corner stone laying were held there. While Mr. Baer was absorbed in the building project he contracted a fever, presumably from a visit to the Gettysburg field immediately after the battle, and his consecrated and promising career was brought to a close by its fatal termination on September 9, 1863. The following pastorate—that of the Rev. Christopher Knauff—was memorable chiefly for the defection of that gentleman to the Protestant Episcopal Church after a brief incumbency of seven months. The pastorate of the Rev. H. L. Baugher, who succeeded Mr. Knauff, was marked by a number of changes of a progressive character. The new church, completed at a cost of \$15,916 85, was dedicated Dec. 11, 1864. Lutheran vestments were introduced, the use of the service begun, the first pipe organ purchased by an

ization of young people, and an aggressive campaign carried on to make the church Lutheran in deed as well as in name.

The pastorate of Rev. A. J. Weddell began March 1, 1868, and lasted nearly 20 years. During its progress the Luther Union was organized by Mr. Weddell as a means for the social and intellectual development of the young people. It has played an important part along these lines, and has made itself most helpfully felt in solving financial problems of the congregation during the period of its existence.

Brief reference was made to the pastorate of Rev. Hiram F. Peters, who succeeded Mr. Woddell, and the sketch closed with the following: "Let us close the story with the prayer, the echo of one made here nineteen years ago, that past successes and such bitter experiences as have entered into the congregational life pondered on may lead to more love for one another, more loyalty to our church and faith, and greater consecration to the cause of our dear Master, Christ."

HISTORIANS IN SESSION

An All-day Meeting of the Montgomery County Society.

"LAFAYETTE AT BARREN HILL"

An Interesting Sketch by Levi Streeper—History of a Lost Church—Dr. Corson Tells About Early Abolition in Montgomery County—Other Interesting Documents.

A public meeting of the Montgomery County Historical Society, partaking of the nature of a basket picnic, is in progress today at St. Peter's Lutheran Church at Barren Hill. Prominent local historians from Montgomery and adjoining counties are present. Participants in the event were accompanied by well-filled lunch baskets, and when intermission was announced at noon tables containing the constituents of a substantial repast awaited the historians, having been prepared under the supervision of a number of ladies in attendance, who were materially assisted by the villagers, who gave the visitors a warm reception.

The meeting opened at 10 o'clock, Hon. Hiram C. Hoover, president of the society, presiding. Devotional exercises were conducted in the historic St. Peter's Church by Rev. T. R. Beeber, D. D., of the First Presbyterian Church of Norristown. After

music by the church choir the visitors were welcomed by Rev. Mr. Focht, of Barren Hill. A poem, "Whitemarsh," was submitted by Rev. Matthias Sheeliegh, D. D., of Fort Washington. The feature of the forenoon was a paper by Levi Streeper, of Norristown, on "Lafayette at Barren Hill." Mr. Streeper, now a resident of Norristown, lived many years at Whitemarsh, teaching school and being engaged in business, and is conversant with the hitherto unwritten revolutionary history of the township. His paper was prepared from fragmentary sketches narrated by the oldest inhabitants in his boyhood days and now recalled. The details of several incidents in Gen. Lafayette's movements in Whitemarsh were gotten from eye witnesses.

General Lafayette arrived at Barren Hill from Valley Forge on May 17, 1778, and went into camp about a fourth of a mile below the church, having been detailed by Washington to intercept disloyalists who were going into Philadelphia by river and by road to supply Howe's troops.

Scarce had Lafayette pitched tents and posted pickets before Howe was apprised, on the morning of the 19th, of his presence. Howe detailed, Grant, with 5300 men, to capture Lafayette and his army of 2500, and on the night of the 19th Grant set out for Barren Hill, going over a circuitous route via Germantown, Chestnut Hill, the Bethlehem, Skippack and Watson ford roads. Howe and 7500 men followed the next morning, accompanied by Admiral Howe and General Clinton, going as far as Chestnut Hill, where he halted to meet Grant on his return.

A man named Stoy, who was asleep in Mather's mill, where he was employed, was awakened by the clatter of horses' hoofs and, surmising that the cavalcade was made up of British troops after Lafayette, he went with all possible haste on foot in the direction of Lafayette's camp, to warn him of the danger. Stoy aroused Rudolph Bartol, to whom he communicated his suspicions, and the latter finished the journey begun by Stoy, who dropped from sheer exhaustion. Bartol reached Lafayette before daylight with news of the approach of the British, and Lafayette and his staff rode up toward Plymouth and saw Grant's army coming over Cold Point. He was surprised at the number of the English, and hastening back to camp prepared at once for immediate evacuation.

When Grant reached Plymouth a British sympathizer told him that Lafayette had broken camp and was retreating. Grant then halted his men for a conference of officers. According to the statement of Samuel Maulshy, who was an eye witness, Grant did not resume the march for a half

nour, but when he did his army included a number of Americans who had turned traitor. Between Plymouth meeting and Spring Mill Grant halted and prepared for action. About the same time Lafayette was quietly slipping out of the clutches of the pursuing party, and when Grant moved on, ready to surround the Continental soldiers, he saw Lafayette's command winding its way up a hill on the other side of the Schuylkill, protected by a battery posted on the crest of the hill, the battery having been sent in advance. Lafayette was accompanied by a small band of Indians, who kept some distance in the rear on the retreat. As Grant's troops appeared in view the redskin's fired a volley into his ranks and dashed into the river and soon overtook the fleeing Frenchman. This was probably the only volley fired at an enemy on Montgomery county soil during the revolutionary period.

Early Days of Abolition in Montgomery County.

Dr. Hiram Corson, of Plymouth Meeting, submitted a paper on "Early Days of Abolition in Montgomery county," a history of the beginning of the finally fierce struggle which began about the year 1830 and continued until 1861. "Though we did much from 1830 to 1831," says the aged doctor, "it was not until the latter year that the fight was active in Montgomery county." Every religious denomination except the

Quakers, says the doctor, opposed the use of their churches in the interests of abolition, and the masses hurled bitter denunciation at the anti-slavery people. Meetings were held in the Quaker school house at Plymouth and elsewhere in the county.

Dr. Corson's exhaustive paper recites the incidents in the first seizure of a runaway slave in Montgomery county and others as they followed, and refers to the capture by slave hunters of Jane Johnson and her two sons and the imprisonment of Passmore Williamson for interference in behalf of the captives. The paper recalls the hiding of a fugitive for two weeks in the house of "good old Ben Ross" in Norristown for two weeks because of the murder of "Old Goreuch, and deals with a fierce fight for freedom by John and Jim Lewis and their final purchase by friends here. The paper gives the names of several groups of abolitionists whose headquarters were at Plymouth meeting, Norristown, Pottstown, Upper Providence and other places

The Lost Church of Whitemarsh.

Hon. Jones Detwiler, of Blue Bell, contributed a valuable historic paper on "De Kerck op Wytmess" (the church at Whitemarsh.) Following is a synopsis of Mr. Detwiler's paper:

The story seems strange now, but in the last century a congregation of the Reformed church existed on the spot, or near the same, where the St. Peter's Lutheran Church at Barren Hill now stands. Religious services were held more or less regularly. At that time there were several of the early settlers held to that faith where there are none now.

Many of these early emigrants were truly pious, and though not able to bring their ministers brought with them Bibles, catechisms, hymn and other devotional books; in some cases pious schoolmasters.

The first knowledge we have of a congregation is from the record made by the Rev. Paulus VanVlecq, pastor of the church at Samminie (Neshaminy) Bensalem, Bucks county, and Jarmentown (Germantown), Philadelphia. On June 4, 1710, Paulus VanVlecq visited this place and organized a congregation. On December 25th of the same year he ordained Evert TenHeuven (DeHaven) and Isaac Dilbeck elders, and William DeWees and Jan Aweeg, deacons.

In 1711 the congregation was composed of the following persons:—Hans Hendrick Meels, Isaac Dilbeck, Jan Aweeg, Antonie Geert Yerkes, Geertrung Reinbergh, Marritye Blomorse, van Isaac Dilbeck, Catrina (Catharine) Weels, Wm. DeWees, Elizabeth Schipbrower, Evert TenHeuven, Aunchen Barents, van J. Pietorse, Maria Selle, Garret TenHeuven, William DeWees, Johanna Jodden, Johannes Ravenstock, Geertrung Aweeg, Elsy Schel, Sabila Ravenstock, van Hendrick Tibbin, Marguretta Bon, von Kasper Staels.

How long Mr. VanVlecq labored here we do not know. About this time he visited the section of country where the old Norriton Presbyterian church now stands, about eight miles from here, and preached to the people of that place; also preached to a congregation known as the Skippack Reformed church and baptized their children.

When the Rev. George Michael Weiss, the first ordained Reformed minister, arrived in this country September 21, 1727, he found John Philip Boehm preaching and laboring here without license and ordination, to which he seriously objected.

So well pleased were they with Mr. Boehm's ministrations that in July, 1728, they sent a petition to the Classis of Amsterdam, New York, asking Classis to ordain and install Mr. Boehm as their pastor. Under date of June 20, 1729, the Amsterdam Classis replied, declaring that in view of the attendant circumstances, that all the transactions of Mr. Boehm be declared lawful, and he was accordingly ordained in New York November 23, 1729.

The congregation was supplied by the Rev. John Philip Boehm until his death at the house of his oldest son, Anthony William Boehm, on the 29th of April, 1749, in Hellertown, now Lehigh county.

The pamphlet called "Letters of Warning" issued by Rev. Boehm in 1742, was approved by the elders. William DeWees and Christopher Ottinger were elders and Michael Clime and Philip Scheror were deacons.

After the death of Mr. Boehm the congregation was frequently supplied with the Rev. Michael Schlatter, the first missionary of the Reformed church sent by the Synod of Holland, who arrived at Boston August 1, 1746, and died in Philadelphia in November, 1790.

This is the last that we have any record of. It is sad to relate that many of the early records are lost. Those kept by Boehm were left in an old iron-bound chest and found their way into the garret of an old house that stood on the corner of Second and Quarry streets, Philadelphia, which together with its contents was destroyed by fire.

Those of Rev. Schlatter were nearly all destroyed by fire in his residence at Chestnut Hill during the time the British occupied Philadelphia in 1778.

My subject has been the lost church at Whitmarsh. Though organized fifty years before the present Lutheran, it has been lost to that branch of the Christian church that fostered and nourished it for nearly a century. Yet another has grown and flourished in its stead, and we trust and feel that the true gospel all that time has been preached. The present church has grown, lengthened its cords and strengthen its stakes.

Other Documents.

Amongst other historical documents submitted during the meeting were a poem, "The Schuylkill," by Elwood Roberts, of Norristown; and a sketch, "Last Half of the Century," by George Bartholomew, of Barren Hill. The meeting was one of the most successful in the career of the society.

From, *Republican*

West Chester Pa

Date, *Sept 24 '95*

WHERE PENN WORSHIPPED

AN OBJECT OF PECULIAR INTEREST TO FRIENDS.

Two Hundredth Anniversary of the

Little Stone Meeting House to Be Celebrated This Week at Lower Merion.

There is a little stone meeting house in Lower Merion, Montgomery county, which, on Friday next, will be the object of peculiar interest to members of the Society of Friends, and to all whose patriotism makes Colonial landmarks worthy of reverence. On September 27, 28 and 29 will occur the celebration of the structure's 200th anniversary, and preparations of a somewhat elaborate character have been made for the event.

The meeting house is so small as to be almost tiny. It measures but 14 feet from floor to roof, and is more than 36 feet long and 20 feet wide. The walls, constructed of painted stone and, in later years, plastered in imitation of cut stone, are the walls of two centuries ago, when walls were something more than mere partitions—they are two feet thick. The window panes are the small leaded diamonds of that old day, and the stone mounting block still holds its place where the earliest of Colonial dames were wont, on First-day, to alight from their staid and sober steeds when they came to meeting.

THE FIRST MARRIAGE.

In the building yet remains the heavy carved oak table on which it was the custom to lay the marriage certificate of newly wedded couples. The last couple whose certificate lay there were Benjamin Hunt and Hester Price, three-score years ago, when the bride, appropriately enough, was a descendant of Edward Rees, who presented the site to the congregation for the modest charge of \$2.50. On this site before the ambitious stone building was erected, the Friends worshipped in a log cabin, and prior to that time, meetings were held in the house of Hugh Roberts, the first of the Roberts family in the State. The first man married in that meeting house was an ancestor of George B. Roberts, President of the Pennsylvania Railroad. The structure has also the distinction arising from the circumstance that William Penn attended many meetings there.

INTERESTING FEATURES.

The celebration, commencing Friday, will present most interesting features on the following day, when to the numerous assemblage expected essays and poems, for which the house and its memories supply ample material, will be read, and prominent speakers of the Society will be heard. In the afternoon the historical service will be held, and Miss Walker, of Chester county, whose family has furnished members of the meeting since its origin, will act as historian. Her researches will probably settle the important question of the building's exact age. Religious service will be held Sunday, when well-known Friends will be present.

The Meeting now numbers no more than a score of persons who attend regularly, but the celebration will not lose in significance for all that.

From, *Gazette*

Aubler pa

Date, *Sept 26 '95*

did so much to save by his constancy and valor. It is natural, therefore, that one turns with a curious interest and reverence to the home of his ancestors, an humble farmhouse, where they loved and joyed, labored and sorrowed, as did their neighbors, little anticipating what high honors and great fame was in store for one of their family.

As is well known, the paternal ancestors of Ulysses S. Grant were of Puritan blood and lived in Connecticut for 170 years, although his father, Jesse Grant,



THE SIMPSON HOMESTEAD—ERECTED BEFORE THE REVOLUTION.

[The home of the mother of General Grant, showing the old bake oven to the left, in which tradition says her mother baked bread for Washington's soldiers after the battle of Germantown.]

SIMPSON HOMESTEAD.

THE HOUSE IN WHICH THE MOTHER
OF GENERAL GRANT WAS BORN.

The Oven in Which Bread Was Baked for
the American Soldiers After the Battle of
Germantown—General Grant Twice Vis-
ited the Place.

The homestead of the Simpsons in
northern Horsham would not possess
more than the usual historical interest of
such old houses and properties except
for the illustrious descendant of the fam-
ily, Ulysses Simpson Grant. His story
will be forever associated with the annals
of the great republic whose integrity he

son of Noah Grant, was born in West-
moreland county, this state. Exactly
what elements of his character a close
observer would ascribe as being inher-
ited from his father's family, we are un-
aware. They doubtless had a due
influence in the characteristics of the
renowned captain, who led the armies
of the republic to victory against her in-
ternal foes and was twice elevated by
his countrymen to fill the highest office
in the gift of a great nation. His given
name—Ulysses—that of the Greek hero
of old Homer's unequalled epic poem,
was not known as a first name in Penn-
sylvania at that time, and is some indica-
tion of the intelligence and culture of the
New England stock. But it is evident
that General Grant, like nearly all great
men, derived most of his characteristics
from his mother's family. His profile,

personal appearance and physical structure bear a resemblance to his relatives long residing in Bucks county—the Simpsons, the Weirs, McKinstrys, Houghs, etc. His modesty and unassuming diffidence, his personal integrity and his lack of fluent speech, were no doubt more especially derived from the maternal side. Men of his equable, unexcitable, unimaginative temperament, even though gifted with unusual abilities, often pass through life unnoticed, through lack of assurance, of brilliancy of parts and fluency of speech. It is only after reaching middle life, and being placed in circumstances that arouse the latent capabilities of such men, that the world hears of them and their talents and judgment are developed.

Hannah Simpson, the mother of General Grant, was born in Montgomery county in the extreme northern corner of Horsham, about half a mile from the Bucks county line. Her father's name was John Simpson, Jr., born here in 1767. The house in which he resided is still standing, a short distance south of Steever's mills, on the eastern side of the turnpike leading to Prospectville from Chalfont. Less than a mile to the north is the hamlet called Pleasantville, containing a few scattered houses, a blacksmith shop, a store, where is the post-office called Eureka. Formerly a tavern sign of the "Green Tree" indicated a public house, but which is no longer licensed. One-fourth of a mile further north is the Pleasantville Reformed church, known as the "Brick church." The present turnpike, formerly known as the old Butler road, formerly ran at some distance east from the Simpson house, diverging from its later course for a considerable distance. A marked depression in the fields yet clearly shows its former direction, which was changed in 1855, when the turnpike was constructed.

The old stone house in which John Simpson resided is now the home of Emanuel Stocker, who owns the farm of forty-three acres. It is as it formerly was, except for a new roof and dormer windows added by the present owner. This farm is only the central part of the former Simpson estate. The latter also included a farm of fifty acres on the westerly side of the turnpike; also the farm formerly held by William Dunn, bordering the county line, now held by his son-in-law, Charles Thompson, comprising sixty-nine acres. Besides, there were six acres, which later were attached to the Steever property on the north. In all, the Simpson lands comprised 173 acres—enough for a comfortable maintenance, or upon which to grow poor, according to the vigor or the negligence of the old style of farming. Nearly the whole estate sloped to the eastward. A brawling stream, after passing the mill, flowed through a ravine towards the east,

hastening to join the waters of the Little Neshaminy. A bit of green meadow extended on the south and east of the Simpson dwelling. An oven attached to the log house was here in the time of the Revolution, and from which the wife of John Simpson, Sr., handed out her whole baking to the American soldiers retreating from the fight at Germantown.

The old house shows signs of antiquity and may be considered in several portions. The main house is of stone, of two stories, about 30 by 20 feet in dimensions, containing two rooms on the first floor and three on the second. The lower rooms have old-fashioned fireplaces. In the smaller or northern room of this house it is said Hannah Simpson was born. The windows are not the original ones. There is no date stone upon the house. It is thought to have been built by the younger Simpson when first married. Even then it has seen a century of time. At the angle attached to the west end is the older and more humble house, of logs, supposed to have been the home of the first John Simpson, and erected by him a dozen years before the Revolution. Its erection may have been earlier. In its rear is a large room, now used as a workshop. This has been added at an unknown date to the one-story portion. On the meadow bank, east of the dwelling, is the old stone springhouse, wherein gushes forth the spring whose locality doubtless decided the site of the dwelling of the original pioneer. The Simpson barn was very near the turnpike. It was succeeded by a barn erected by an owner named Jones, who succeeded the Simpsons. Its ruins might have been seen fifteen years ago. A new frame barn north of the dwelling is of modern construction. During the period just previous to the removal of John Simpson in 1817, the old log part of the house was the home of James Griffith, who was a blacksmith, and had married his eldest daughter, Mary. The place of his shop is yet pointed out to the northward of the house, and close to the former line of the Butler road. James Griffith, with his wife, afterwards removed to Ohio.

JOHN SIMPSON, JUNIOR.

As to the personal characteristics of the maternal grandfather of Grant, he was described to the writer of this by one who knew him, as a man of medium size, of rather slender build, and of ruddy, sandy complexion. He was generally rated a first-rate man by his neighbors,

by whom he was esteemed as clever and obliging, and possessing ordinary abilities. He was, however, addicted to the drinking habits of his generation, then very common, and considered of no especial detriment to a man's reputation. When on "sprees" he was occasionally quite wild and turbulent. His boyhood

was during the stirring scenes of the American Revolution. In a list of taxables of Horsham of the year 1792, John Simpson was mentioned as a single man, though he must have been married about that date. In 1794 he moved from home and bought the later farm of John Stong, two miles to the southwest, of Charles Rubincam. He held this only three years, however, selling it in 1797 to Andrew Fetter. In this sale he is designated as John Simpson, Jr., and his wife, Rebecca, signed the deed. Simpson had four children by his first wife, who was Rebecca Wier, daughter of Samuel Wier, of New Britain, now Warrington. Their children were: Isaiah, died young; Samuel, Mary and Hannah. Rebecca Simpson, the first wife, was dead before 1803. The second wife was Sarah Hair, probably the daughter of Benjamin Hair. There was a child by this second wife, but which did not reach maturity.

Samuel Simpson, the son, also removed to Ohio, and it is known that he engaged in trading down the Mississippi. He once returned to his native country and married a girl whom he had formerly known, named Betsey Griffith, daughter of Thomas Griffith, of the vicinity of Hartsville. She had been reared at the home of Rev. Jacob Bellville, a Presbyterian clergyman. At their marriage, when her husband handed over the usual fee, the good clergyman refused to retain it, and made it a present to the bride instead—in whom he doubtless felt a fatherly interest. What became of the descendants of these relatives of General Grant is doubtless better known in Ohio than here.

Sixty years after the departure of the family to Ohio, Hannah Simpson was remembered by elderly people as a sprightly, agreeable girl, seventeen to twenty years of age, who went out in company and had already begun to receive the attentions of her admirers. Some of the old gallants living in the neighboring townships have related to the writer instances of their acquaintance with her in the long-past springtide of their youth. They told of seeing her at the old county line school house, on the Warrington side, on Sunday afternoons, as an attendant of the religious meetings there, held by various clergymen. She, in company with her parents, also frequently attended the New Britain Baptist church, six miles distant to the north, and also the Presbyterian church at Neshaminy. In the old school house above mentioned the children of Simpson obtained what education they received, as it was just opposite their father's property, though in another county.

THE WIERS.

Concerning Rebecca Wier, the grandmother of General Grant, we have no personal traditions, nor even the exact date of her death, but the latter was about 1802 or 1803. Her married life lasted

not more than ten or eleven years. Her father was Samuel Wier, who owned a farm in New Britain, in that portion now included in Warrington since 1849. The Wiers, McKinstry's, Hines, Darrahs and other families were related and formed a portion of the Scotch-Irish emigration that, during the last century, came to Bucks county and filled up the greater portion of the townships of Warrington, Warminster and Warwick. Their central point of worship was a beautiful spot on the banks of the Little Neshaminy, near Hartsville, where there are now two Presbyterian churches. The lands of the Wiers long since passed into the hands of other families, but the crossing of the Butler and the State roads to this day is called Wier's corner. Samuel Wier came into possession of a farm on the southerly slope of Spruce hill, in 1760, when he was a young man. He lived there fifty-one years, or until his death, in 1811. This farm was owned later by Jesse Garner, and a few years ago by Henry Aker. The old stone house bore on it the initials of the Wiers. Among those who took the oath of allegiance to the American government in 1778 before John Davis, of New Britain, were four of the family, John Weir, Samuel Wier, Isaac Wier and Robert Wier. Mary Wier, a sister of Rebecca Simpson, married Robert McKinstry, and this is how the McKinstry's became related to Grant. By the will of Samuel Wier, made in August, 1803, he bequeathed £100 to his daughter Mary, wife of Robert McKinstry, and £20 to James McKinstry, her son. "To Mary Simpson, Samuel Simpson, Hannah Simpson and Isaiah Simpson, all children of my daughter Rebecca, now deceased," he gave £25 each. He had also sons, John and James. He ordained that Rev. Nathaniel Irwin, the Presbyterian minister at Neshaminy, should be executor of his estate, comprising at one time 152 acres bought of Hugh Barclay, who had purchased it of the Fitzwater estate in 1749.

JOHN SIMPSON, SENIOR.

We believe that the genealogy of the Simpson family has not been traced back to the time of their immigration. The earlier ancestors doubtless lived in Abington and perhaps also in Moreland. The name is of Scottish origin, and it is supposed that the first settlers were Presbyterians, though some are borne on the records of the Friends. The elder John Simpson was the son of Samuel Simpson. He became a property owner in Horsham by the purchase of 164 acres of land on the 30th of November, 1763, and which comprised the farms already described as the old Simpson homestead. This he bought of Sheriff John Nedman. Of course there was a house here at that time and clearings had been made. It is said that a square mile of land, or 640 acres, lying in the north corner of Horsham, had before that time been divided

into four nearly equal portions, and that the Simpson tract was the most northerly of these. In 1730 it belonged to Morris and John Edwards. Tradition says that the aborigines used a portion of the farm as a camping ground, and where they had one of their wigwam villages. Its extreme northern corner, adjoining the county and township line roads, was called "the Indian field" by the old settlers—a designation which it retains to the present day. Evidences of the Indian occupation were formerly found in the sloping grounds rising from the brook, in the shape of stone axes, arrows and other primitive implements of another race than ours.

John Simpson was collector of taxes in Horsham in 1776. In the assessment of that year he was rated as the owner of 150 acres, four horses, four cattle and fourteen sheep.

Some anecdotes of the elder John Simpson show that he spoke in the dialect of the Scotch-Irish, and that either he or his parents came from the old country. He was born about 1740, or perhaps a little earlier, and died in 1805 or 1806. Who was his wife is unknown to the writer. He had children—John, Jr., Hannah and Ann. Hannah Simpson, Sr., after whom Hannah Grant was named, became the wife of Benjamin Hough, Sr., of New-

ville, and this is how the Houghs are related to the later Simpsons. Ann married Jonathan Smith, who removed to Muncy, Lycoming county.

Old John Simpson died without making a will, and his property was equally divided among his children. His widow survived him, and his son took all the land, paying out equitable portions to the two married sisters. At the date of April, 1806, Benjamin Hough, of Warwick, and Jonathan Smith released their claims to the younger John Simpson for the sum of £1,465, 18 shillings and 9 pence. The boundaries of the estate at that time were: Beginning at a corner of Jacob Wright's land, extending thence by the same and lands of David Dowlin and Job Spencer, northeast 245 perches; thence along the line between Bucks and Montgomery counties, northwest 112 perches; thence along the line between Horsham and Montgomery townships, and by land of Cadwallader Roberts, southwest 243 perches to corner of James Dunn; thence by same southeast 111 perches to beginning. This comprised 164 acres.

THE REMOVAL TO OHIO.

John Simpson sold his farm to John Myers, who had previously been the owner of the mill in New Britain, which yet belongs to the estate of Hon. William Godshalk, and is on the State road. The date of conveyance was September 10, 1817, and the amount conveyed was 164 acres and 48 perches. Simpson did not leave Pennsylvania for a year and a half thereafter, but removed to a house at the junction of the State road and the county

line, then in New Britain, but now in the extreme western corner of Warrington. This was later known as Harp's Corner. Myers died before possession or the receipt of a deed for the Simpson place, and the farm was sold again for the benefit of his children to Thomas Lawson, an Englishman, to whom it was conveyed August 31, 1820. Previous to the latter date Simpson had left this state, leaving power of attorney with Jacob Cassel to make sale in his name. At that time he is described as being a resident of Tate township, Clermont county, Ohio. By the date of his grant to Cassel it is evident that he was a resident of Harp's Corner in August, 1818, and as tradition says that the family left on their long journey across the Alleghenies in the month of May, the time of leaving for Ohio must have been in May, 1819. He was in fair circumstances when he left, as the farm was sold to Lawson for \$5,461.50. It was then bounded by lands of James Dunn, Richard Roberts, John Parkinson, Job Spencer, William White and Jacob Wright.

At the date of Simpson's removal to Ohio he was fifty-two years of age. General Grant twice visited the region where his maternal ancestors resided; the first time soon after his graduation at West Point, in 1843. The young cadet then stopped at the house of his great-uncle, Benjamin Hough, Sr., of Newville, and was conveyed from thence to see the old homestead of his father's in Horsham. About 1853, ten years later, he revisited the spot and stopped at the home of his relative, Robert McKinstry, of Warrington, on the county line, later the residence of his son-in-law, John Brady.

THE JOURNEY TO OHIO.

After General Grant became famous, one Joseph Gilkeyson, of Roxborough, used to relate that he accompanied the Simpsons to the west in a wagon drawn by a pair of horses owned by Simpson. Gilkeyson had been raised probably near Ambler. Gilkeyson went along, not intending to stay, to see the country. He had been invited to do so by Simpson, and helped take care of the horses and did other necessary work. He remembered Hannah Simpson as a very prepossessing young woman. They sometimes stopped at the wayside inns for lodgings and refreshments, and sometimes remained in their wagon, which was provided with cooking utensils and sleeping accommodations. The trouble on the journey was that Hannah Simpson was too good-looking. When they stopped at public houses the young men who saw her asked her father so many questions about his daughter, and so annoyed him with their attentions, that he adopted a ruse to get rid of their vexatious importunities. He told them that his daughter was engaged to the young man, Joseph Gilkeyson. This had the desired effect, and

thereafter they proceeded on their journey quietly and fewer questions were asked. After Gilkeyson had satisfied his thirst for adventure and travel he returned to Pennsylvania. Simpson looked about to find his future home in the beautiful and fertile land whither he had journeyed. His daughter Hannah was married to Jesse Grant June 24, 1820, and her son Ulysses was born in 1822. John Simpson, the father, lived eighteen years after his arrival in Ohio, where he died August 20, 1837, having reached the age of three score and ten.

E. M.

From, *Inquirer*
Phila Pa
 Date, *Sept 28/95*

A BI-CENTENNIAL

Celebration at the Old Stone Meeting House Next Week.

The old stone meeting house in Lower Merion township, Montgomery county, which has been two centuries a church, will next week be the scene of a great



The Old Stone Meeting House.

celebration, the little congregation there having planned extensive preparations for the event.

The women will care for the visitors in old fashioned hospitable style, horses and carriages will be cared for and a bountiful table spread. A historical service will be attended by many distinguished members of the Friends' Society, and Miss Walker, of Chester county, will read a paper on the history of the meeting house, which will be of much interest.

From, *Press*
Phila Pa

Date, *Oct 5 & 6/95*

200 YEARS A MEETING HOUSE.

Lower Merion Friends to
Have a Fitting Celebration of the Event.

SERVICES BEGIN TO-DAY.

Several Prominent Members of the
Society Will Make Addresses
of a Historical Character and
Others Will Read Poems.

Special Despatch to "The Press."

Ardmore, Oct. 4.—The 200th anniversary of the erection of the old stone Quaker Meeting House in Lower Merion Township will commence to-morrow and continue several days. The ancient structure is in as perfect condition to-day as when erected, and defies the ravages of time, and worship is held there every Sunday, Friends driving to the place from miles around.

One of the features of the celebration will be the erection on the grounds connected with the meeting house of a mammoth tent, which will accommodate about 1000 persons. It was at first intended to have that part of the celebration confined to worship held in the meeting house, which has a seating capacity for about 350, but in view of the fact that there will be a gathering of prominent Friends from all over Pennsylvania, as well as large delegations from New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and other States, it was decided that all meetings be held in the tent.

The programme will be simple and Quaker-like in its character. The celebration will open with a characteristic period of silence and then will follow on different days impromptu remarks, prepared historical addresses, etc. An historical paper on the old Merion Meeting House will be read by Mary J. Walker, of Chester Valley. A poem will be read by Dr. James B. Walker, of Phila-

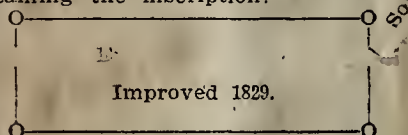


EXTERIOR OF THE OLD FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE IN LOWER MERION TOWNSHIP.

delphia, and another paper will be read by Dr. Allen C. Thomas, of Haverford College, on the comprehensive subject of "The Work of the Society of Friends of the World." During the exercises Isaac H. Clothier, of Wynnewood, will read a paper on the influence of the Society of Friends at the present day. Another poem will be read by Dr. Francis I. Gummere, of Haverford College, and there will be a number of interesting social reunions. Among those who are expected to be present at the anniversary celebration are such prominent members of the Society of Friends as John J. Cornell, of New York; Isaac Wilson of Canada, and Levi Benson, of Ohio, all well-known speakers at important assemblages of the old Quaker stock.

A large committee of women have charge of the hospitalities of the occasion, and among other features will be a continuously well-spread table on the grounds.

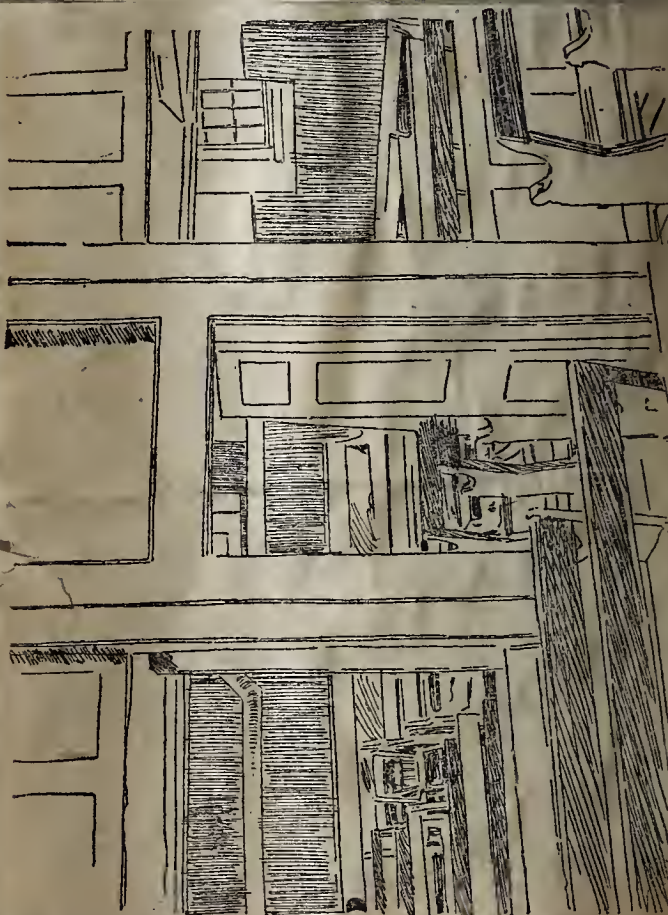
The old meeting house is a small, but substantially built structure, with peaked roof, and is built in the shape of a cross. On the front of it is a table containing the inscription:—



It is a matter of historical record that William Penn regularly attended the Merion Meeting House, and the bench still shown where Penn and his contemporaries used to sit.

The meeting house is only 14 feet high, 36 feet in length and 20 yards wide. The walls are about two feet thick and the windows and window panes are now just as they were two centuries ago.

Over half a century ago the old building was rough-casted, and the roof was put in proper repair. It was proposed to



INTERIOR OF THE MEETING HOUSE, SHOWING THE BENCH FROM WHICH WILLIAM PENN LISTENED TO THE SERVICES.

have the cement of the exterior of the walls scraped off in order that the building might be restored to the primitive condition and look as far as possible just as it did 200 years ago. At different periods some slight alterations have been made in the interior, but great care has been taken to preserve its original simplicity, and the bench occupied by William Penn and his associates remains to-day just as it did when the founder of Pennsylvania worshiped there. It is a matter of historical record that the site of the Lower Merion Meeting House was formerly occupied by a still older log place of worship, but the great increase of the Quaker element in that vicinity necessitated the erection of the present stone building. Another matter of record is the fact that in September, 1777, during the dark days of the war, the American army encamped in a field adjoining the Lower Merion Meeting House and were there about the time of the massacre of Paoli, and many of the fighting Quakers of the army used to repair to the old meeting house for worship.

The old burial ground connected with the meeting house is a place of historic interest. The tombstones contain the names of some of the oldest and most prominent Philadelphia families.

FRIENDS HAVE AN ENJOYABLE DAY.

Two Thousand Turn Out to
Celebrate a 200th
Anniversary.

HISTORICAL PAPERS READ.

Mary Walker and Isaac H. Clothier
Recall Interesting Facts—Many
Relics of Old Times Exhibi-
ted at Lower Merion
Meeting House.

Special Despatch to "The Press."

Narberth, Oct. 5—More than 2000 members of the Society of Friends assembled to-day at the meeting house in Lower Merion Township, to begin the celebration of the 200th anniversary. They came in carriages from Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties, and large numbers by trains from both east and west. Both branches of the society were represented, for their early history is the heritage and glory of both. Many came early in the day, although the exercises did not begin until afternoon.

The exercises began with a historical paper by Mary J. Walker, of Chester Valley. "We are here to-day," she said, "to recall the good and lasting work of our Welsh ancestors. A difference of opinion exists as to the exact time of

the building of this house, but it was for many years the only house of worship within the present county of Montgomery. The property was held for some years by deeds in the form of leases and releases, the first actual deed being given in 1745. A lot containing half an acre was conveyed by Edward Reese to the trustees of Merion preparative meeting for graveyard purposes. In 1801 and 1804 John Dickinson conveyed to the trustees two lots for the use of the members and for the graveyard.

"No records are extant which give the exact date of the erection of this meeting house. The stone upon the gable states it was erected in 1695, but when this stone was placed there is also uncertainty. But in the minutes kept by women Friends there is record of eight shillings paid for cleaning Merion Meeting House, 12th of 12th month, 1695."

"A paper has recently been found containing the names of subscribers and the amounts contributed in the year 1713 for building the meeting house. These evidences prove that a meeting house was standing here previous to 1695, that some part of this present structure was begun in that year, and that the building was probably completed in its present form in 1713. The meeting held here to-day, truthfully commemorates the erection of the oldest part of the present building."

A poem read by Dr. James R. Walker, of Philadelphia, was marked by noble sentiments happily expressed. It paid deserved tribute to Penn's Treaty of Peace with the Indians, to the influence of Friends on mitigating the asperity of theological discussions, and promoting the cause of peace, and it struck a note of confident hope in the further progress and ultimate triumph of that cause.

Dr. Allen G. Thomas, of Haverford College, read a valuable paper on "What the Friend Has Done." The author pictured vividly the condition of civilized society two hundred years ago; against this cruel state of society, the voice of George Fox, like one crying in the wilderness, was heard teaching that God speaks directly to every human soul, independently of priests or kings. That teaching affirmed the dignity and the liberty of every man. Hence Friends were largely instrumental in securing the freedom of religious worship which is now almost universally enjoyed, in abolishing slavery, in securing just treatment for the Indian, in ameliorating the condition of prisoners, in arousing public opinion against war, in promoting arbitration and in enlarging the sphere of woman.

The speaker then appealed to all within the reach of his voice to rise to a sense of the duty of the hour. "Perhaps," he said, "the day has gone by for adhering to some of the peculiar customs by which their principle of simplicity was exemplified, but the necessity still exists for the proclaiming of the fundamental truths."

A concluding poem was then read by Dr. Francis B. Gummere, of Haverford College, after which a few moments were spent in silent meditation, concluded by an earnest prayer by one of the women.

Isaac H. Clothier, of Philadelphia, followed with an eloquent presentation of the work and principles of the Society of Friends. Among other things he said:—

"We are among the representatives of a society which, though one of the smallest in numbers from its foundation until now, has yet commanded a measure of attention and exercised an influence in the world entirely disproportioned to the size of its membership. Reviled and persecuted, first in England, then in

this country, and held up to public scorn and ridicule, the society grew while persecution lasted and not until it ceased did its growth lessen. But though never large in membership and numbering today in England and America perhaps less than 150,000 souls, its influence has been extraordinary in the world. John Bright said: 'I am a member of a small but somewhat remarkable sect, a religious body which had a remarkable origin, and in its early days at least a somewhat remarkable history. It is of all the religious sects the one that has most at heart the equality and equal rights of man.'

'It is fitting that on this anniversary occasion we should recount that which cannot be dwelt upon too often—the simplicity and sufficiency of the faith of the Friends, and its potent influence on mankind by reason of its very simplicity. That has been the corner-stone, the essence of the faith of the Friends—simplicity of faith and of life.'

Many interesting historical relics were exhibited in the church to-day. The original deed of a lot of one-half acre by Edward Reese to the trustees of Lower Merion Meeting was examined with great interest. The marriage certificate of Jacob Zell and Hannah Levering in the year 1783 was another object of interest, as was also the oaken table on which such documents were spread out to be signed. The last marriage celebration in this old church was that of Benjamin Hunt and Esther Price, sixty years ago, Esther being a granddaughter of Edward Reese, who first deeded the land for this meeting house. In the attic are preserved some old school desks, a relic of the time when a school was kept in the church long before the days of our public schools.

Some of those present to-day were Professor Huxley, of Haverford College; Dr. John Hopkins, Dr. Joseph W. Andersen, John L. Giffen, of New York; Mr. A. Zell, of New York; Isaac Sharpless, president of Haverford College; John Wildman, of Langhorne; Allen Flitcraft, of Chester; Philip P. Sharpless, of West Chester; Rufus M. Jones, editor of "The American Friend;" Davis Orum Young, Councilman Roberts, of Philadelphia; George B. Roberts and family, Joel J. Bailly, John B. Garrett and family, Isaac W. Roberts, Matilda E. Janney, Mahlon Dickinson, Joseph B. Hancock, Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Pugh, Isaac H. Hillburn, Samuel S. Ash, Samuel Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Chambers, of Overbrook; Henry Hall and wife and Samuel D. Hall, Thomas Hall and Lydia D. Hall, of Swarthmore; James V. Watson, George Watson, Hannah Levick, George Dickinson, Joseph W. Thomas, of King of Prussia P. O.; Hannah A. Zell, T. Ellwood Zell, Justice Jones, Lewis J. Levick, Paul Jones Fry, Edward W. Heston, Paul Jones Hoffman, George Vaux, Howard W. Lippincott and many others.

From,

Ledger
Phila pa

Date,

Oct 7/95

ABINGTON CHURCH BURNED

A LANDMARK ON THE OLD YORK ROAD DESTROYED.

NOTHING BUT THE WALLS STANDING

ONE OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CONGREGATIONS.

A LOSS OF \$25,000 WITH \$15,000 INSURANCE

PASTOR HENDERSON'S SERMON TO HIS FOLDLESS FLOCK.

The Abington Presbyterian Church, the home of the oldest Presbyterian congregation in Montgomery county, for more than a century a landmark on the Old York road, in Abington village, a mile and a half above Jenkintown, was destroyed by fire early yesterday morning, with its contents. Only the walls, erected nearly 100 years ago are left standing. The fire was discovered by the crew of a night trolley car on the Old York road line of the People's Traction Company about 3.10 o'clock.

Samuel Yost, the motorman, and William Kenny, the conductor, aroused the village and led the way to the church, Yost having his hair singed in a vain effort to save the Sunday school place.

Unable to Save the Church.

Unable to stop the flames the crew of the trolley carped to Jenkintown and gave the alarm. The fire department responded, but were unable to do more than prevent the spread of the flames to the manse beside the church.

The fire seemed to have started in the annex at the rear of the church, used as the church parlor and the Bible class room. It spread rapidly to the main building, and about 4.30 o'clock the spire fell, carrying down the large bell, which was broken into pieces. The pipe organ, Sunday-school organ and piano, the library and the furniture of the parlor were destroyed.

By diligent efforts the pulpit desk, the cushions of the pews and a number of hymn-books and small Bibles were saved.

The loss is estimated at between \$25,000 and \$30,000, and there is an insurance of \$15,000.

Rev. John R. Henderson, the Pastor of the church, who was installed last June, lives in the manse, about 100 feet from the church. His first knowledge of the fire was the shouts of the night car crew, which awakened him.

Nearly all the men of Abington village and a number of farmers bound into Philadelphia with produce did what they could to save the church, but the annex building was like a furnace when they reached it.

Incendiarism Suspected.

The origin of the fire is unknown. Incendiarism is suspected by some, who refer to the two attempts to burn the Methodist Church at Willow Grove, about two weeks ago.

There had been fire in one of the heaters located a short distance from the place the fire broke out all of last week, but on Saturday both heaters were overhauled by a firm of plumbers from Jenkintown, and the fire was built fresh Saturday afternoon.

Many think the flames were started by a defective flue and smouldered for several hours.

An Appropriate Sermon.

This morning Pastor Henderson gathered his flock together in the Abington school-house, nearly opposite the church. He had a congregation of about 150 persons, and they took a most hopeful, encouraging view of the situation.

Mr. Henderson preached an appropriate sermon. His text was Isaiah, lxiiv, 11: "Our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised Thee, is burned up with fire, and all our beautiful things are laid waste." A second text was Nehemiah, ii, 17 and 18.

"Then I said unto them, ye see the distress that we are in; how Jerusalem lieth waste and the gates are burned with fire; come, let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach.

"Then I told them of the hand of my God, which was good unto me; as also the King's words that He had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build; so they strengthened their hands for this good work.

To Rebuild at Once.

Following a sermon which put encouragement into the heart of every member of the congregation, there was a conference and the trustees of the church were supported in the movement to rebuild at once.

This evening there will be a meeting of the Elders and Trustees to consider plans for rebuilding. It is thought the walls of the main building, which are said to be nearly 100 years old, can be used again.

It will be necessary to raise from \$5000 to \$10,000 in addition to the insurance to build the proposed new structure.

The burned library contained a number of very old books of considerable value.

A CHURCH WITH A HISTORY.

Its Congregation Was Organized in 1714.

Abington Presbyterian Church was organized in 1714 by the Rev. Malachi Jones. The first session book gives the original membership as exactly three score and ten, and these were chiefly Scotch-Irish. Mr. Jones had come to the colony of Pennsylvania from Wales, and, joining the Presbytery of Philadelphia (which had been in existence eight years and had 11 members on its roll), immediately began work at Abington. Half an acre of ground having been secured, for which a deed was given August 15, 1719, a log church was very probably soon after erected, the first house of worship possessed by the denomination within the present limits of Montgomery county. It stood within the graveyard at the intersection of the Old York and Suquamish street roads until April, 1793, when it was superseded by a more dignified and substantial structure.

Mr. Jones continued his labors there with apparent success for 15 years, or until his death, which occurred March 28, 1729, he being 78 years old. With one exception his tombstone is the oldest there containing an inscription, and it is mentioned thereon that "He was the first Minister in this place."

For two years after Mr. Jones's decease, the Rev. Jedediah Andrews occasionally officiated. In December, 1731, the Rev. Richard Treat was ordained a Minister and duly in-

stalled. Mr. Treat continued in the charge the long period of 47 years. He died and was buried there in November, 1778. During the period covered by his pastorate George Whitefield and David Brainerd, "The Apostle to the Indians," visited Abington several times. The memorable schism between the Synods of New York and Philadelphia occurred in 1741, and it was not until 1758 that they were reunited. An interregnum of three years followed Mr. Treat's decease, various Ministers officiating.

In 1781, the Rev. William Mackey Tennent, D. D., was chosen Pastor and installed. For years he was a member of the Board of Trustees of Princeton College. The Abington Congregation was incorporated by what is termed a private Act of Assembly, passed February 22, 1785. The original church having become too small for the wants of the congregation, a new stone structure was commenced in the spring of 1793, nearly opposite, on the west side of the York road; it was occupied for worship in the following October.

Dr. Tennent died in December, 1810, and his remains repose in the old graveyard. After an interval of two years the Rev. Wm. Duulop was chosen Pastor and assumed charge July 2, 1812. He died of consumption in December, 1818. The Rev. Robert Steel received the charge November 9, 1819, and continued in the pastorate for the long period of nearly 43 years. At a meeting held March 12, 1833, it was resolved to enlarge the church, which was done the following summer at a cost of nearly \$1900. Dr. Steel died September 2, 1862, and the Rev. John L. Whitrow, D. D., was installed Pastor in May, 1863, remaining until November, 1868, when he came to the Arch Street Church in this city.

He was succeeded by the Rev. Samuel T. Lowrie, D. D., in May, 1869, who left in July, 1874, to accept a professorship in the Theological Seminary at Allegheny. The Rev. L. W. Eckard, D. D., was installed May 25, 1875; he resigned a few years ago to accept a call to Easton. He was succeeded by the Rev. Llewellyn S. Fulmer, who remained but a short time. The present Pastor, the Rev. J. R. Henderson, was only recently installed.

Abington has been the parent of Huntingdon Valley Church, built in 1863; of Grace Church, Jenkintown, and of Carmel Chapel, at Edge Hill village. The handsome brown sandstone structure just destroyed was erected in the place of the former church in 1863. It had stained glass windows, and the total length was 118 feet. The tower and spire were built of dressed stone, 180 feet in height, and from its elevated position formed a conspicuous landmark for miles around.

The Abington Church is the oldest in the Presbytery of Philadelphia North. The annual meeting of that Presbytery was held in that building on Tuesday and Wednesday of last week.

From,

McCord

Thurford (Phila.)

Date,

Mar 30/90

CHELTENHAM.

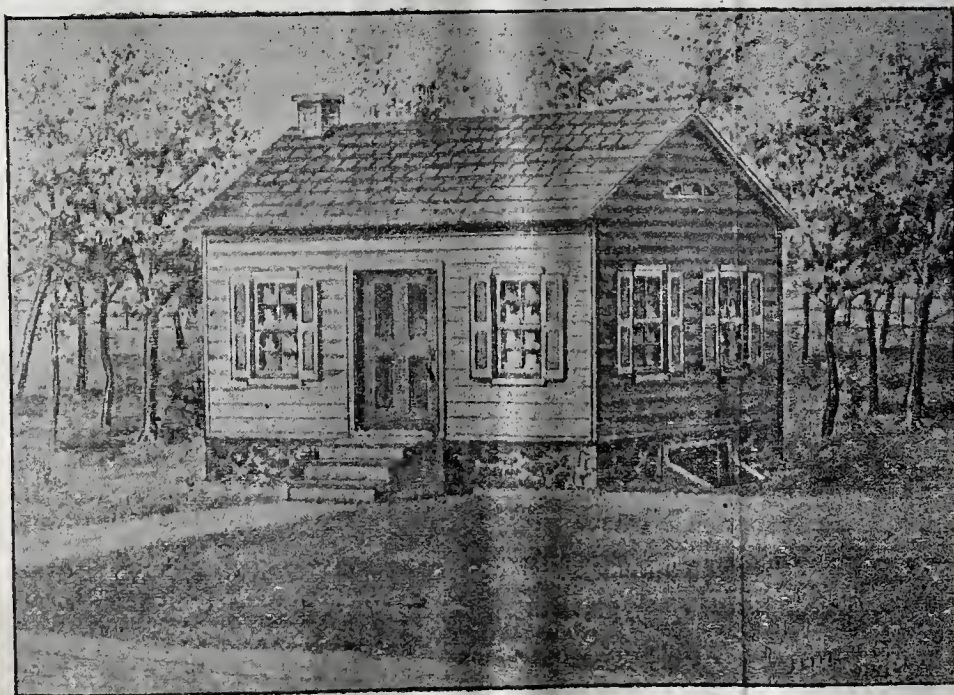
—The jubilee celebration commemorative of the building of the first free school in Montgomery county, held on last Saturday afternoon at the George K. Heller public school in this place, was a grand success. The day was almost perfect, one of those beautiful Indian summer days, and as was anticipated by the committee having the matter in charge, the large school building was entirely inadequate to accommodate one-half of those who attended. The audience was made up of people from all parts of Cheltenham township who were glad of the opportunity to do honor to so important an event. The meeting was called to order at 2 o'clock by the local Director of the school at this place, who nominated Thomas Williams, Esq., of Goutz, as chairman of the meeting, who in a few well chosen remarks welcomed the large audience to the celebration of the building of the "first free school in Cheltenham township" and in Montgomery county. The exercises commenced with singing by the children of the local school of a hymn, entitled, "Our School House," set to the tune of Italian Hymn, and composed for the occasion by the Superintendent of Cheltenham district, Professor Shroy. The singing was led by four brass horns, under the leadership of Professor Shroy, assisted by Messrs. Fred. Buckhalter, Lawrence

Smith and Nathaniel Harvey, who also gave some excellent music during the exercises. The following history was then read by Miss Carrie Speck, Principal of George K. Heller School, who has been a teacher in this school since 1876:

The first school house in Cheltenham township was built in this place in 1795. From this it might appear that previous to that date Cheltenham township was without educational advantages. Such, however, was not the case.

In 1748, a school house was built in Bristol township about 400 yards east of front gate of Ivy Hill Cemetery, for the accommodation of Bristol, Cheltenham, Germantown and Springfield townships and neighborhood adjoining. In 1793, Anthony Williams, great-grandfather of Thomas Williams, the president of our school board, gave land and money for a school house. It was built in Philadelphia county very near the Cheltenham line. At his death he bequeathed 250 pounds to be held in trust for the maintenance of the Williams School, as it was called. That trust is still in existence.

In 1796, Benjamin Rowland, Frederick Altemus, and Samuel Miles deeded to Thomas Fletcher, Caleb Hallowell, John Thompson, John Jones, Amos Jones and William Bailey, Trustees, for the sum of five shillings, three-fourths of an acre of land on which a school house had been erected in 1795. Previous to 1842, this building, called the



THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE.



THE NEW SCHOOL HOUSE.

Milltown School house, was the only public school in Cheltenham township. Children who could not attend this school were allowed to go over the line to neighboring townships.

The building was of rough stone and contained only one room in which was a desk for the teacher and long desks and benches for the pupils. There was an open fire place in one end of the room and, it is said, the school master lived in one end of the building and taught school in the other.

At that time the free system of education had not been adopted and the pupils were required to pay for their tuition as well as for materials. The cost of tuition was about three cents a day. The outfit of a pupil cost about one dollar. Each pupil was required to have an English Reader or New Testament, a Comly's or Byerly's Spelling Book, and Pike's or Rose's Arithmetic, also a slate, a pencil, six sheets of foolscap paper stitched together, a small ink bottle in a cork stand and a goose quill. Those who could not afford to pay were admitted free. These were termed "poor scholars" or "county scholars" and they were ill-treated by their companions. This caused hard feeling and the schools were despised by the rich and shunned by the poor.

In 1836, at a meeting of the inhabitants of Cheltenham, John J. Williams, father of Thomas Williams, Thomas Rowland, Jacob Myers, George K. Heller, Samuel Fenton and Comly Shoemaker were constituted a board of directors. At a later

meeting it was decided to take no action on the school question until the next township election, in 1837. In that year a vote was taken on the question of adopting the Common School system but it was lost, there being 12 votes for schools and 34 votes for "no schools." In 1838, another vote was taken and was carried by 16 majority there being 56 votes for school and 40 for "no schools." Thus the Common School System was adopted. The first board of directors consisted of Joel Mann, President; G. K. Heller, Secretary, John J. Williams, Treasurer; Thomas Rowland, Bartholomew Mather and William Gillingham, grandfather of Mr. Joseph Bosler, of Ogontz. Although the new law made the schools public, patrons were still obliged to pay one-half the tuition and purchase the books used by their children. It was not until 1855 that the board of directors passed a resolution to furnish a uniform system of teaching.

Previous to 1844, teachers had been examined by the directors but in that year Hon. E. L. Acker was elected superintendent of schools in Montgomery county. During the period from 1844 to the present, there have been four superintendents, Hon. E. L. Acker, Rev. Robert Cruikshank, Prof. Abel Rambo, and Prof. R. T. Hoffecker, our present superintendent.

We know very little of the early school masters. The first of which we have any record is Rev. Samuel B. Wylie. His

life was a noble and interesting one. He was born in Ireland, but impelled by the love of freedom emigrated to America in 1797. He landed in New Castle, Delaware, and having missed the ship for Philadelphia, walked with one companion to that city. They crossed the bridge of floating logs over the Schuylkill at Market street and went on to Broad street, which was then lined with cultivated fields. There they were told that Philadelphia was a mile farther on. During the same year, 1797, Mr. Wylie secured the position of teacher in the Milltown school. After leaving here he taught in the University of Pennsylvania and in 1803 was installed pastor of what is now the Wylie Memorial Presbyterian Church. During his ministry he was appointed Professor and was eminently successful in fitting young men for the ministry. He died in 1852 in his eightieth year and was succeeded by his son, Rev. T. W. J. Wylie, D. D., who still fills his father's position.

Of the period from 1797 to 1835 very little is known. There was no church in the town at that time and the Baptists and Swedenborgians held service in the school house. The first Methodist sermon was preached by Rev. Mr. Ireland in the school yard, the prejudice against Methodism being so intense that they were not allowed to occupy the building. In 1832, the tide turned and the Methodists were given the use of the school, to the exclusion of the others. They shortly after built a church in the town. The only teachers of that period whose names we know were Benjamin Roberts, a great-uncle of the present principal, John Robbins, Giles Winders and Robert Ashton.

The list from 1837 to 1855 is imperfect also as no records of that period can be found. During that time the school was taught by John Campbell, Joseph Mergaree, William Flowers, Henry Bolton, William Staley, Thomas Plummer, Mary J. Crocker, afterward Mrs. Plummer, Jonathan Hyatt, and William Ashmead. About that time the room was divided by a partition so that a primary division might be opened. Joseph Fletcher Sickel was placed in charge of the principal school, as it was then called, and Elizabeth Toban, the primary. Mr. Sickel taught about three years. He is now principal of the Jefferson Grammar School in Philadelphia. He was succeeded by Davis Boggs and William Porter. Following these came James F. C. Sickel, a cousin to Joseph Sickel. The salary of the principal teacher at this time was \$30 a month and that of the primary teacher \$15 a month.

At this time the Saturday school question was discussed by the directors and a vote taken for abolishing the custom of

teaching on alternate Saturdays, but a tie vote being the result, the matter was postponed and teachers taught twenty-four days to the month. The sessions were long, also, the hours being from 8 P. M. to 11.45 and 1.30 P. M. to 5. In 1856, the school was painted by the teacher, Mr. Sickel, the board furnishing materials. James Sickel left Cheltenham in 1858. He is now one of the assistant superintendents in Philadelphia. Miss Toban, the primary teacher, married Mr. Joseph Sickel and was succeeded by Mary G. Sickel, a sister of Joseph Sickel.

Following Mr. James Sickel came Joseph Parks, George H. Browning, Andrew Glanden and B. F. Saurman. These four we have not been able to trace.

In 1857, it was decided to build an addition to the Milltown school and a new room was added in front of the old building with a hall-way between, the new room to be used for the primary division. Sallie Livezey was the first teacher in the new room. She taught until 1863 when she resigned in order to complete her education. She afterward taught in another school of Cheltenham township, but poor health compelled her to give up teaching and she died of consumption soon after. In 1862 Thomas Plummer, a former teacher, taught the principal school until another teacher could be secured. After leaving the school room, he filled the office of book-keeper. He has since died. The next teacher was William G. Miller who taught until 1865. He afterward engaged in mercantile business and died in 1892. In that year it was decided to have a lady principal and Annie L. Roberts was appointed for one month on trial, her continuance in service to depend on her ability to control the youth of Milltown. She taught successfully until 1869. She then gave up teaching and married Robert Croasdale, a lawyer in Philadelphia. After his death she again entered the profession and had charge of the primary department of the Audenried School of Cheltenham township and afterward the Friends' School at Abington. She now has charge of the Friends' Preparatory School, at Westfield, New Jersey. Miss Roberts was succeeded by Lizzie Magee, who taught one year. She is still a teacher, though not teaching continuously.

In 1870, Ella Randall became teacher. She taught until 1872 when she married Thomas O. Rowland, of Cheltenham, where she still lives.

Mr. Joseph G. Trank next assumed charge of the school and taught until the winter of 1873. Teaching was adopted by him as a profession and he is now

teaching at Jenkintown. Sallie J. Kratz succeeded Mr. Trank and taught until 1876. She taught in Whitemarsh township, after leaving Cheltenham. She married Thomas Long and now lives at King of Prussia, this county. Next came James L. Dungan. He taught four years at this place and afterward in Philadelphia where he lived for some time. After the death of his wife and daughter he went to Erie, where he still resides. The next teacher was E. Ella Mauger who taught until poor health forced her to resign in 1881. She is still a successful teacher and has a private school in Sharon Hill, Delaware county. Clara Fitch followed Miss Mauger and taught until 1882. She is now Mrs. Vere and when last heard of was living at Southport, New York.

Miss Fitch was succeeded by the present principal. In the primary department Miss Livezey was succeeded in 1863 by Carrie Roberts who taught until 1876. She then gave up teaching. She is now living in Byberry. Miss Roberts was succeeded by Carrie V. Speck, who taught the division until 1882 when she was promoted to the principalship and the primary was given to Ella H. Clement.

In 1883, the old school house was torn down and the front part of the present building consisting of three rooms was erected in its place. The new building was named the George K. Heller School in honor of George K. Heller, who was director for thirty-three years during thirty of which he filled the office of Secretary of the Board. The building not being completed by September 1st, school was opened in Cheltenham Hall. In 1885, a third division was found necessary and it was put in operation with Mary C. Hellerman as teacher. She taught until 1890 when she gave up teaching. She now lives at Lawndale, near Cheltenham.

Miss Hellerman was succeeded in the Secondary department by Elizabeth Piper, who taught until July '95. In 1892 Miss Clement was succeeded in the Primary by Helen V. Ritchie, of Hatboro.

In May, 1893, the primary department being overcrowded, the directors decided that a fourth division was necessary and Cheltenham Hall was again secured and a Secondary department opened with Carrie V. Rowland as teacher. During the summer of '93 an addition of two rooms was made, making the present building of five rooms. In 1895, Miss Piper, Miss Rowland and Miss Ritchie

were succeeded by S. Brinton of Christiana, Intermediate Department. Nellie Pickersgill of Holmesburg, Second

dary Department, and Ira C. Ely, of Newtown Primary. Through the efforts of teacher and pupils an organ was placed in the school in 1883, and the following year a library was started. It now numbers 200 volumes. In 1890 the School Savings Bank was introduced and in five years about two thousand dollars have been deposited.

During the present term more than 150 pupils have been enrolled and from present indications a fifth teacher will be an imperative necessity at no distant day.

Probably a list of the directors will prove of interest.

The following have served since 1838: Joel Mann, John J. Williams, George K. Heller, Thomas Rowland, Sr., Wm. Gillingham, Bartholomew Mather, A. R. Kulp, John Thomson, A. Hunt, Dr. Charles Bolton, Henry Vanhorn, Isaac Shoemaker, Robert Haines, John Cooke, John Ervin, William Birchall, Thomas Williams, B. Rowland Myers, Reuben Myers, Albert J. Engle, William C. Powell, Lynford Rowland, James Brooks, William G. Bosler, Robert Shoemaker, William K. Bray, T. T. Mather, Edward M. Davis, Sr., John McCabe, William H. Myers, Edward M. Davis, Jr., Charles Evans, Henry Birchall, William G. Audenried, William Conard, Col. John H. Bringham, Isaiah Drain, William Murphy, James Day Rowland, George D. Heist, Thomas Williams, Jr., William Briscoe, Rev. Richard Montgomery, Jacob Loper, Samuel Landis, George W. Flounders, John M. Butler.

The present board consists of Thomas Williams, President; William H. Myers, Secretary; Albert J. Myers, Lewis C. Leidy, Henry Brooke and Dr. Godshall.

Of these directors five are worthy of special note as having devoted many years to the work of the schools. Geo. K. Heller, Robert Shoemaker, B. Rowland Myers, Thomas Williams, and W. H. Myers.

An address was made by Professor Hoffecker, county Superintendent, and also by the State Superintendent, Hon. Henry Houck, the latter of whom captivated the large audience by his eloquent remarks and stirring address. On account of severe illness, Miss Ella Mauger, a former teacher in this place who was to prepare and read an original poem, could not be present.

Short addresses were made by Directors, teachers and patrons. William G. Audenried, Esq., who had been a Director several years ago, made an address, also, B. Rowland Myers. Mr. Charles Heller was present and was called for, but being seated so far back in the audience he declined to speak. A few words from him would have been

well received on account of his close connection with his honored father, after whom the school at this place has been so appropriately named. Mrs. Anna Croasdale, a former teacher at this place, also made an address which was well received. Mrs. Plummer, whose maiden name was Crocket, and who had taught in this school over 50 years ago, was present, and in a clear, intelligent manner made a few remarks, telling how she taught in the little one, roomed building, and in those early days how the boys, in order to be kept quiet, were put in the teacher's desk, which was a high piece of furniture with doors in front, that could easily be utilized as a prison for unruly boys and girls. Mrs. Plummer was listened to with great attention.

All the members of the present school board were present, also the following ex Directors: George D. Heist, B. R. Myers, Lynford Rowland and Wm. G. Audeuried. Nearly all the teachers of the district of Chettenham were present with the following ex-teachers: Mrs. Plummer, Anna Croasdale, Sallie Kratz, Ella A. Rowland, Mary C. Hellerman, Ella H. Clement, George D. Heist.

The whole affair was well managed and reflects credit on those having the matter in charge. The thanks of the committee are due to the musicians who so ably did their part of the programme free of charge, to the principal of the school, who so ably and carefully prepared the school history, to trustees of the Temperance Division and Methodist Church who so kindly loaned the chairs for the occasion, and last but not least, to the Directors, teachers, parents and children, who so highly appreciated the efforts of those having the matter in charge and gave their presence to the occasion, a fact that goes a great way toward repaying those upon whom the burden falls at such times for all their toil and labor.

From,

Independents
Germantown

Date,

Jan 17/96

YE OLDE KING OF PRUSSIA INN

Interesting Pen Picture of a Famous
Germantown Hostelry.

The Old Building, With Its Gambrel Roof, Its Old Brass Knocker, Its Wrought Iron Latches and Finely-Carved Mantels and Fire-Places, Still Remains an Object of Interest to All Lovers of the Antique — Named in Honor of Frederick the Great.

Written for THE INDEPENDENT.

This old house extends its broad front along the west side of Germantown avenue, between School street and Maplewood avenue, and takes in the numbers 5516, 5518 5520 and 5522. It was probably built about 1740-1, and was converted into an inn about the year 1763, and named the King of Prussia Inn, in honor of Frederick the Great, which was about the period of his last great victories.

When this quaint old building was erected, it was considered by the inhabitants of Philadelphia, which then did not extend much beyond Sixth and High (Market) streets, as being far beyond the city—in the country. Now it is in the heart of one of the city's most populous wards—the Twenty-second.

Alexander McCarraher was an early proprietor of this inn, probably the first. The next was Thomas Vapault, and after him came Michael Riter, formerly the landlord of the Indian Queen Hotel, at the lower corner of Indian Queen lane (Queen street). The Masonic fraternity then met in it.

Mr. Riter was one of the founders and a member of the first Board of Directors of the Germantown Bank in 1811.

Jacob Trip'er was the landlord prior to and for some time after 1823. Abraham Schrack was the next, and probably the last was E. Boswell.

On the morning of the battle of Germantown, October 4 1777, the left wing of the British army was on School lane, reaching from the Market-house (Moument Square) on Germantown road, to the Schuylkill river, and was under General Knyphausen, Generals Agnew and Grey being subordinate to him, as well as General Van Stern and his Hessians, while the Chasseurs, mounted and on foot, under Colonel Van Worms, were on the Ridge road, as far up as the

Wissahickon. There is no doubt but that the officers at the Germantown end of this wing, who were privileged to leave the ranks, and who were fond of their ale, regaled themselves at the King of Prussia. In fact, there is little doubt but that on that day the enemy had complete possession of this inn.

In repairing the roof about a century after the Revolutionary War, one of the carpenters found a brass musket ball embedded in a rafter on the west side of the house, next to the lower window-jamb of the first dormer window from the north end, about breast-high from the garret floor. The supposition is, that an English or Hessian soldier, recognized by his uniform, was seen at this window by an American sharp shooter, who shot at him from too great a distance to hit his mark, although he probably came within twelve or fifteen inches of striking him in a vital spot. Judging from the direction the ball took in the rafter, the shooter must have stood in a westerly direction from the inn when he fired.

A blue coat, with brass buttons of Colonial days, was found at the same time between the rafters, which fell apart while handling, but the buttons were saved.

A short time after this several leaden bullets and an old, rusted bayonet were dug up from the grounds surrounding the house. A small piece of blue and white plaid silk, in good condition, evidently very old and belonging to a lady's dress was recently found by Dr. Williams, the present occupant, under a loose floor board in the attic; also a receipt of the Boston and Philadelphia Steamboat Line, dated March 7, 1831; a letter dated January 27, 1832, signed Abraham Schrack, and a newspaper scrap with the date in print, July 5, 1782.

During the yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia in 1739, Germantown was made the capital of Pennsylvania and the business of the Commonwealth was transacted in a double stone house that stood on Main street, above School, now a part of the site of the National Bank of Germantown, and some of the State officials were entertained at the King of Prussia, which was less than fifty yards north of it.

Gilbert Stuart, the famous artist, during his stay at this inn, in 1795 painted an equestrian figure of Frederick the Great (said to be one of his best of that monarch) on a large sign for this inn. He desired to be unknown in the matter, but the secret was too good to keep long, and this added greatly to the popularity of the hotel in after years. This sign, together with other old relics of the house, are still stored in the middle attic.

There are some very fair landscapes painted upon the walls of the first floor, especially those of the drawing room,

which may also have been done by Gilbert Stuart. They are principally of early Pennsylvania. Some of the scenes are of the Allegheny mountains, also of the Wissahickon, with Indians about and behind some of the trees, and views of the old village of Germantown. These are now hidden from view, being covered with wall paper.

Formerly there was a large and very long barn in the rear, which was used by the British when they were in Germantown as a slaughter-house.

The first stage-coach having an awning was run by a Mr. Coleman from the King of Prussia to the George Hotel, at Second and Mulberry (Arch) streets, Philadelphia, and made three trips a week.

Between 1825 and 1838 the circuses and menageries that came to town located on the grounds of the inn, and during this period political mass meetings were held there. James M. Gowen (the father of Franklin B. Gowen, who was for many years President of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company) on one occasion addressed one of the political meetings. He was a candidate for Congress at the time, but was defeated. This was in the early 30's.

About 1833 Benjamin Lehman's lumber yard, a short distance above the inn, was burned. Two alarms were given, which brought to the scene some of the city fire companies. On this occasion nearly all the wells in the neighborhood were pumped dry, including the old wells belonging to this hostelry. Peach brandy was sold to the firemen by Landlord Schrack, of the King of Prussia, and carried to them in leather fire buckets.

The Middle Ward Fire Company (one of the first fire companies in Germantown), which was organized January 28, 1764, and who had their first house, a small frame building, built in that year, on Market Square, within a stone's throw of the King of Prussia, quite likely held some of their early meetings in this inn, as it is known that the following meetings were held there some years later, to wit:

In 1809 the Middle Ward Fire Company held their annual meeting in the King of Prussia. Thomas Vapault was then the proprietor. On August 25, 1814, a committee of this company met there to transact some business. At that time Michael Riter was the landlord.

Between 1809 and 1825 this company held several meetings there. On August 29, 1833, they had a stated meeting at this hotel, when "the building committee reported that they had sold the old engine house for \$14.00 and contracted for a new one which would cost \$95.00." The next year (1834) it was known as the Washington Fire Company. Abraham Schrack was then the

proprietor of the inn.

In the early part of the year 1819 several meetings were held in the King of Prussia by members of the Middle Ward Fire Company and other townsmen for the purpose of forming a new fire company. Their first meeting was called February 24 of that year for organization.

Their second meeting was on March 3, when the name of Fellowship Hose was adopted. Their third meeting was called March 8. At this meeting they elected their officers and adopted their constitution and by-laws.

Their fourth meeting there was on April 11 of that year, when "Theodore Ashmead was appointed to purchase the necessary articles for the Hose Company—a Speaking Trumpet, Three Torches, a Wrench & belt, 1 lock, eight Keys & eight Badges."

On March 13, 1823, the Fellowship Hose Company held its annual meeting in the King of Prussia Inn, when a committee was appointed to make collections for a new engine. Jacob Tripler was at that time the landlord. No doubt many other Germantown organizations were formed within its walls.

About 1838 it ceased to be a public house, and was occupied by William Ashmead, who had a grocery store in the south end. After his death his son, Charles F. Ashmead, resided there and succeeded him in the business.

In 1864-65 a French woman conducted a school in the south end portion of the house, formerly the store, and afterwards H. A. W. Smith occupied it for his plumbing business.

The dwelling part of the house was occupied from 1865, for some two odd years, by Miss Horstman. During the winter months of 1889-90 the family of Lewis C. Cassidy, ex-Attorney General of Pennsylvania, lived there, since which time Dr. G. W. Williams, dentist, has resided in it.

In the autumn of 1891 H. C. Goodrich, of Chicago, inventor and manufacturer of numerous sewing machine attachments, wrote a poem, entitled "The New Nation," in this house, while a guest of Dr. Williams.

With the march of time modern improvements have been introduced into this house, but there are still many quaint features about it. In the north front cellar, which was in former times a basement kitchen, is a large old-time fire-place, with an iron crane, upon which pots and kettles were hung in "ye olden times," but which is now so covered with rust that it cannot be moved.

A door from this cellar to the north leads to a vault, in which the ale and provisions were kept when the place was a hotel, and a large doorway, with broad stone steps, leads from it to the yard above. A long, narrow opening in the north wall of the vault dis-

closes the old well (not now in use), where butter, etc., may have been lowered and kept cold.

As a private residence it retains a portion of its old name, being known as "Ye Olde King of Prussia." With its gambrel roof and broad veranda, which extends along its entire width (about sixty feet) shaded by fine old maples, its old brass knocker on the front door, its wrought iron latches and finely-carved mantels and fire places, it still remains an object of interest to all lovers of the antique.

G. W. WILLIAMS, D. D. S.

From, *Sun*
New York
Date, *May 26/96*

OLD KEYSTONE POTTERS.

THE FIRST DECORATED POTTERY IN THE UNITED STATES.

Early Ware of the Pennsylvania Germans—A Drive Through the Dutch Settlements—Ruins of the Old Kilns—Inlaid and Inscribed Vegetable and Pie Dishes.

The crudely ornamented pottery of civilized nations which for two centuries preceded china or porcelain has always possessed a peculiar interest for collectors and students of the fictile art. It shows the first awakening of the artistic instinct among simple-hearted people who, in their engrossing struggles for subsistence, had little opportunity to improve their surroundings. Among such people were the Pennsylvania Germans (improperly called the Pennsylvania Dutch), who early in the last century settled in large numbers in the eastern counties of the Keystone State, bringing with them their ancient traditions, methods of labor, and antiquated arts. Being unable to mingle to any extent with the people of other nationalities because of the barrier of language, they preserved for generations their Old World customs, many of which have survived until the present day, and formed a community unaffected by outside influences. Among the industries which they transplanted to the country of their adoption was that of pottery making, and for a century and a half they continued to practise the art as they had learned it in the fatherland, handing it down from father to son without improvement or deterioration.

It would be difficult to find a more interesting country for the antiquary to visit than that still occupied by these curious people. A drive



RUINS OF AN ANCIENT PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN POTTERY. SHOWING KILN.

through Montgomery, Bucks, and Lancaster counties in Pennsylvania—the centre of the German-speaking community—will prove not only entertaining, but profitable as well. There may be seen the old graveyards, with their quaint tombstones carved with figures of guardian angels and the ever-present tulip, the favorite flower, in conventionalized forms. Should he stop at any of the farmhouses for rest or refreshment, the traveller will be enabled to gain some insight into the habits of the people, so different from those of their English-speaking neighbors, and he may, perhaps, be favored with a glimpse of their curiously illuminated baptismal and marriage certificates



PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN DECORATED PIE DISH.

which repose in the antique bureau drawer. An invitation to join the family at dinner, for they are a hospitable race, will be extended to him, should he happen along at midday, and this will afford him an opportunity to study the people at their best and, perhaps, to gain a sight of some of the old crockery which has descended down for a hundred years as heirlooms in the family. On one of my excursions in this section I chanced, with my German guide, upon a rambling old structure which was occupied by a grandson of one of the pioneer potters of the district, himself well advanced in years, but remarkably active, intelligent, and well

versed in local history. Upon our accepting his urgent invitation to dine he devoutly pronounced a blessing upon the meal, while his good woman deferentially stood behind his chair with her apron to her eyes in silent thanksgiving. The words being spoken in the Pennsylvania German dialect, I could not understand them, but it was evident that they deeply affected the participants. After a moment of silence he proceeded to relate many an amusing anecdote of his ancestor, the old potter, which my companion translated to me as the meal progressed.

Most interesting to the student of ceramics are the ruins of the old potteries which abound in this section, with their crumbling walls and the remains of the low, dome-shaped stone kilns, which almost invariably were built within an apartment at one end of the house in which the potter lived. Many of the older structures have almost entirely disappeared, and are only marked by low mounds of rubbish, but the spot where the kiln once stood is usually indicated by a circular depression surrounded by a low wall of debris. If you happen to be versed in the language, your informant will point out the site of the old pottery and inform you that his great-grandfather made beautiful earthenware here a hundred years ago—pie dishes, quart mugs, and even tea sets of red clay, covered with figures of tulips and vines, birds and animals, or encircled with mottoes and rhymes. In rare instances the more recent establishments are still standing, and as they were fashioned on the same patterns as the older ones, we are enabled to gain an excellent idea of those that flourished in the middle of the eighteenth century. One of these, which was in operation from about 1830 to within three or four years, was recently partially destroyed by fire, and, as the walls are partially removed and the roof has disappeared, an excellent view of the kiln may be obtained, as shown in the accompanying illustration.

In some of the farmhouses examples of the old pottery ware still survive, but they are generally treasured by their owners as family relics, and as a rule they cannot be purchased. Often a fabulous value is placed upon them. One old farmer, having been asked to sell a piece in his possession, replied:

"A hundred dollars will buy her. If she is not worth that to you she stays where she is," and there "she" still remains; and yet I have bought equally good specimens from his neighbors at prices ranging from 50 cents to \$5.

Frequently these old pieces bear the dates of manufacture, the earliest thus far brought to light having been made in 1762. These dates continue down to 1840, when they cease, showing that the manufacture seems to have been

discontinued about fifty years ago. From a study of these extremely interesting objects we may learn something of the processes of their fabrication. The larger circular dishes, up to eighteen inches in diameter, were made in the form of shallow milk pans, with sloping



PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN DISH. sides, and these answered the double purpose of meat platters and vegetable dishes. The smaller sizes, ranging from eight to fourteen inches, were curved like our modern earthenware pie plates, and these two forms seem to have sufficed for the simple needs of these unpretentious people. Usually the common red pottery was covered with a thin coating of white clay, which was spread over the surface in a liquid state, then allowed to dry, after which the device was scratched through. Then the whole was covered with a red lead glaze and finished by burning in the kiln. One of these curious dishes, with a design of a leaping stag, supported at each side by a rude drawing of a tulip, is here shown. Around the margin occurs the Pennsylvania German inscription:

Ich bin gemacht von häfner sin;
Wan ich ver brech so bin ich hin,
No im iahr 1814.

which, translated into English, would read:
I am made of potter's earth;
When I am broken then I am gone,
November in the year 1814.

It has been possible to identify many of the pieces of this ancient ware and to assign them to particular potteries, and we have been able to locate many of the old potteries themselves. The manufacture of this ware presents a curious phase of provincial art which flourished in one small section of the United States for at least a hundred and fifty years and then disappeared. The old potters have all gone, and their descendants, grown more practical, have discontinued the making of "slip-decorated" or engraved (*graffito*) ware. What pottery is now being made in the Pennsylvania German settlements is commonplace and of little interest to the collector or the historian.

EDWIN ATLEE BARBER.

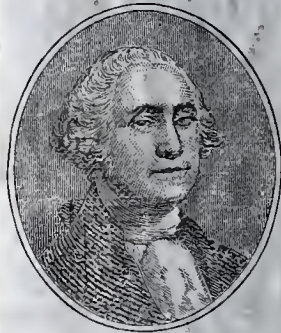
From, Transcript
Dr. J. P. A. C. W. P. A.
Date, July 31 1896

HISTORIC VALLEY FORGE

Where Barefooted Men Left Blood-Stained Footprints in Snow
and Ice, Where They Suffered, Starved and Died
For Priceless American Liberty.

A Spot Located in Montgomery County That Has Been Visited by
Many Prominent Men From Distant Parts, Celebrated
in Prose and Poetry the World Over, Yet
Thousands of Us Never Saw It.

Travelling on a way train on the main line of the Reading road, where all stations are announced, it is easy



WASHINGTON.

to tell which of the passengers in a car are either entire strangers to the Schuylkill valley, or infrequently journey through that scenic region as far toward Philadelphia as the spot which is the subject of this article. We have frequently watched and found that, whether deeply absorbed in a magazine or newspaper, or engaged in conversation with a fellow passenger and sharer of the same seat, the stranger in the car on nearing Valley Forge will survey the low land and hill and then look hard to find the little old stone building — Washington's Headquarters. But to the one who does this there will be ten others absorbed

who do not notice or only half hear whether it is Valley Forge or Merion or the Junction they are passing, so common has Valley Forge become to them. The test just stated is almost an infallible one and will apply to any other historic or famous spot in any portion of the State.

On approaching Gettysburg the stranger, while yet miles away, looks and looks for some trace of that which made Gettysburg both the brightest and darkest spot—as you take it—in the century's history; and upon arriving and visiting the vast expanse of territory pointed out as battle ground, the visitor's interest becomes intense. But not so there to the native Adams countian, and not so here to the Montgomery countian. Valley Forge to us is an old, old story. But as there are numberless good old stories even that we know of only by name, so grand old Valley Forge is known only by name to thousands of the people of the county within whose borders it is located.

The Governor of Rhode Island recently visited Valley Forge and went over the grounds; United States Senator Manderson, of Nebraska, a year

frequent visitors, but there are thousands of our own people in the county who have never seen Washington's Headquarters and many more who have never visited the spot. It is not because we are not a patriotic or appreciative people in a general way. It is rather because of our meagre knowledge of the history of our own county and of localities in it.

Nothing is more interesting and thrilling than the story of Valley Forge and Washington's connection with it. If we as a people knew more of the details of the Revolutionary period of our county, Valley Forge's historical sacredness would be a real, living thing and we would not rest until we had trodden the very ground that Washington and his brave band trod about 118 years ago. It is the purpose of the TRANSCRIPT in this article to furnish its readers with a brief sketch of Valley Forge and a good picture of the Headquarters.

THE ASSOCIATION THAT PRESERVED VALLEY FORGE.

In order to preserve the Headquarters to future generations, the Centennial and Memorial Association was formed in 1878. Among the lead-



WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS.

or more ago was there; distinguishing people from all over the country visit the spot when in this part of Pennsylvania; eminent Philadelphians are

ing spirits in this movement was the late Col. Theo. W. Beau, of Norristown, F. G. Hobson, of Collegeville, and

others. The latter is at present the Treasurer of the organization.

We have no doubt but that it was the work of this association also which suggested the propriety of forming a Commission (which was done by the Legislature in 1893), for the purpose of setting apart forever certain historic land around Valley Forge as a public park. To this the TRANSCRIPT has referred on more than one occasion.

The Memorial Association has received but one appropriation from the State. That was in 1889 and the amount was \$5000. In 1893 Governor Pattison vetoed the appropriation, and in 1895 there appeared to be no money for the Association.

The original plot contained about one-and-a-half acres. Since one-and-a-half more acres, including the Washington Spring used during the Continental Army Encampment, were added, making three acres. Later on two more acres were purchased, containing a house and a stone barn. The latter was used as a hospital during the encampment. The Association's holding now includes the old Headquarters property, the spring and barn, just referred to, a dwelling house, janitors' lodge and about five acres of ground. There are 13 directors of the association all of whom attend to their duties and visit the Headquarters at their own expense. All services are rendered in a patriotic way, except the Warden who lives upon the property and receives \$30 per month.

On the 19th of December, 1777, the American Army went into position at Valley Forge. Mr. Lossing says: "On the cold Wintry journey to Valley Forge, Mrs. Washington rode behind her husband on a pillion. He was on his powerful bay charger and accompanied by a single aide-de-camp, followed the last remnant of the army that left the encampment at White-marsh." General Washington occupied this house as his Headquarters for six months, until June 19th, 1778.

This building was erected by John Potts in 1759, and when selected by General Washington for his headquarters, was the home of his son, Isaac Potts, then the proprietor of the Valley Forge. They had a forge upon the creek, about half-a-mile above its mouth, which was first known as Mount Joy, and later as

THE VALLEY FORGE.

From this comes the name which is

now historic. This forge was burned by the British two months before the army encamped there, and the new works erected soon after the close of the Revolutionary War, were built near where the present woolen factory now stands.

The iron used at the Valley Forge, was made at Warwick Furnace, in Chester County, and hauled there by teams. From 1757 the place seems to have been known as "The Valley Forge," though in most legal documents of that day, it retained the name of Mount Joy.

This name, tradition asserts, was bestowed on the bluff near the Schuylkill, by Wm. Penn, who, while exploring the place, lost his way on the hill south of Valley Creek, which he named Mount Misery, but when he reached the top of the opposite eminence he found out where he was, and gave to it the name of Mount Joy, to commemorate the incident. This manor, Penn granted to his daughter Letitia, and until the Revolution, some part of it was held by the Penns. It was upon Mount Joy that the American army was encamped.

The same year in which this house was erected, John Potts built a good grist mill upon the creek near where the P. & R. R. is now located. When the new dam, as it was called, was made, it raised the water level and covered the foundation of the forge which the British had burned. Mrs. Hannah Ogden, of whom the Headquarters property was purchased, stated that the grist mill was burned in 1843, by a spark from a locomotive. Her father then built a smaller one higher up, which was afterwards used as a paper mill.

THE HEADQUARTERS HOUSE

from cellar to attic, is in good preservation, and appears to-day almost precisely as it did when Washington was domiciled within it. The doors, with bolts and locks, are the very same his hands have moved, the floors, except a portion of the one in the office room, are those over which the Great Chief-tian has walked in many a weary hour; the window glass and sash are unchanged since the days when anxious eyes looked through them at the soldiers' huts upon the hills.

In 1886, the P. O. S. of A. nobly came to the aid of the Association, and paid the \$3,000 mortgage upon the property, which cleared it of all encumbrance. Until that date, a family

had constantly resided in the Headquarters. It was then decided to erect a small house for the janitor, which was done with a portion of the \$5,000 appropriated by the Pennsylvania Legislature for the purpose of restoring the buildings and grounds. One-and-a-half-acres have recently been purchased from Mr. Nathan Jones. This addition increases the extent of the Headquarter lawn, and includes within it the noted "Washington Spring."

In the woods above Port Kennedy, on the river side of the road, the foundations of the huts are still plainly visible, though covered with a growth of underbrush. The shallow cellars seem to be in lines or streets, running north and south, and can be readily traced. The Northern and Eastern troops are said to have placed the log cabins much deeper in the earth than their Southern comrades, and therefore were better protected from the cold, and the mortality less than among the soldiers whose huts were almost entirely above ground.

The place where Baron Steuben

drilled the soldiers, was also part of this woods.

There is but one plainly marked grave now seen upon the encampment ground; it is in a field opposite this piece of woods. A common river stone, with the initials "J. W.," are cut upon it. This grave has always been well preserved.

Not far from this locality, upon the same road, is the home of Wm. Stephens. At the time of the encampment, it was occupied by his ancestors, Abijah Stephens, and was made the headquarters of General Weedon or General Varnum, and later of Baron DeKalb.

Near the orchard opposite this residence on the river side, is what now appears to be, a steep cone shaped hill. This was the "Star Redoubt," and commanded the river crossing. Across the road from this point was an orchard in Revolutionary times, and here tradition says, many graves were made. During the generation following, these events, cattle and horses would frequently sink into them. The old orchard is now gone, and frequent ploughing has removed all traces of graves.

The headquarters of General Muhlenberg was on Edwin Moore's farm. It was then the property of his great grandfather, John Moore.

The present residence of Mrs. Mary Jones, near the bridge over the creek, was the headquarters of General Knox, and was then owned by John Brown, who was also proprietor of Mr. Richard Peterson's place. Crossing the bridge a short distance up the stream, is the residence of Mrs. Edward Wilson. This house was General La Fayette's headquarters. Half-a-mile from this place, on the road leading to Centreville, is the farm, and home of Miss Rebecca Davis, now, June 1891, in her 92d year. She says that Generals Steuben and Du Portale had their headquarters in this building, and that their names were beautifully carved on a door up stairs, but have now entirely disappeared. She supposes they have been planed off by some family occupying the house.

General Wayne's headquarters were on the farm owned by Wm. Henry Walker, descendent of Joseph Walker, who resided there in 1777-'78. The "Sons of the Revolution" have recently placed a stone at the corner of a field and road leading from Centreville to Valley Forge, to mark its location. Upon it is inscribed: "600 yards east from this stone is the headquarters of Major-General Anthony Wayne." This old house, though modernized, is one of the most interesting of the group of officers headquarters that cluster around Valley Forge. Mr. Walker's mother stated to the writer that when she came there in her early married life, no changes had then been made. Corner chimneys were in each of the two parlors, the handsome wide hall had also had a corner chimney and a quaint closet in the hall under the stairs. A shaped, having solid walls each side, running back to a point, with a narrow door in front, was always styled the "Hessian Closet." It was said that prisoners were placed there for safe keeping. Many odd nooks and corners were all through the house. A millstone lies near the kitchen door, that had done good service for the patriot soldiers when grinding grain in the little mill near the house.

Moses Coates lived above "Moore Hall." At his house, Generals Gates and Mifflin, and Colonels Davis and Ballard, were quartered. "Besides their attendants, they had a guard of twenty-four men." Officers also had their headquarters at Jacob Penny-packer's. There were many other officers headquarters, but these names were the nearest to General Washing-

ton's headquarters.

The outline of earthworks extends from near the head of the dam, across the top of a ridge along the line of the Davis property through farms that are now owned by Mr. Mullen, the Zook and Kennedy estates down to the river. Outside of this line of earthworks, on the Zook property, in the rear of the lime quarries, "Fort Folly" was located, (so called because of its position). Forts Washington and Huntingdon are on the eastern slope of Mount Joy. The road leading to the river where the army crossed, passes in front of these two latter named Forts. The brown sandstone that marks what is called the "Sullivan Bridge," where the troops crossed on June 19th, 1778, stands near the river, on land formerly belonging to the Stephens' estate; freshets and high waters of many years have washed the earth over it, until the top is now level with the earth. About three or four inches in front of it, is a white marble stone, which the river is rapidly covering. Upon this is inscribed: "Spencer and Sullivan's Bridge, 1777-'78, erected by Schuylkill Boatmen in 1840." In front of these stones, a piece of timber lies in the river, said to be the remains of what is known as the "Floating Bridge." A short distance below these stones a log hut is found on the land belonging to Wm. Stephens. It is known as the "Slave Hut," and has stood there ever since the encampment.

From, *Telephone*
Phila. Pa.
 Date, *Feb 11 96*

AN OLD ASSESSOR'S LIST.

The First One Taken After the Revolution.

At the last monthly meeting of Merion Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, the following historical paper was read by the historian, Miss Margaret B. Harvey.

Mr. Edward W. Heston, of Cynwyd, Montgomery county, Pa., has kindly favored

your historian with a copy of the Assessor's List for Blockley Township in the year 1783. This was the first list taken after the Revolution. The assessors were Edward Heston and Thomas George.

The original list is in an excellent state of preservation. As might be expected, the paper is yellowed with time, but the penmanship is still clear and distinct. The handwriting is beautiful. It is true, as so often asserted, that the penmen of Revolutionary days wrote with far more elegance than is usual now, provided, of course, that these Revolutionary writers were good penmen in the first place. The quill-pen of old times gave a freedom and grace which the modern steel-pen has never yet equalled.

Edward Heston, the Assessor, was a Revolutionary soldier. We have already had an account of his services. Also, we know of him as the founder of Hestonville. Mr. Edward W. Heston, of Cynwyd, holder of this historic assessor's list, is the Revolutionary Edward Heston's grand son.

The list of "Land and Housekeepers" contains the following names. Many of these are quite familiar to residents of old Blockley and Merion:

John Thomas, David Jones, Sebastian Wilfong, Joseph Jones, Peter Wilfong, Jonas Supplee, Nathan Supplee, Nathan Rhoads, Henry Read, Samuel Pearson, Lydia Morris, Aron Hilbert, Isaac Gray, Lydia Musgrove, Henry Campfer, Mary Coulton, Edward Williams, David Seldrack, Frederick Smith, William Seldrack, James Underwood, William Sanders, John Supplee, Mary Blankley, Joseph Lees, Jr., George Gray, Joseph Lees, Barbary Roop, Ezebella Turner, Joseph Saltback, Peter Jones, James Worrel, Joseph Coughran, Rich'd Crain, Robt. and Richard Crain, Thos. George, Jacob Balort, Amos George, Conrad Hoover, Willm Roberts, Thos. Roberts, Able Moore, Willm. Bispham, Willm. Rose, Andrew Yocum, Martin Walter, Gillion Roop, Joseph Hibbert, John Saltback, Michael Loots, John Bare, Mary Smith, Rebecca Sandown, John Neven, Peter Rose, John Hough, Robt. McGugan, Adam Rhoads Abrah. Harding, Margary Warner, Henry Smith, Thos. Rhoads, John Davis, Peter Ott, Joseph Watson, Ann Green, John Pywell, James Wallis, Willm. Toms, John George, Robert Craig, Jacob Slone, Christian Miller, Malon Hall, John Heckler, Jonathan Supplee, Thos. Tomson, Isaac Kite, Edward Heston, Jacob Reeves, Thos. Waters, Jacob Waggoner, Chris. Keller, Jesse George, Jos. Bculton, Abrah. Streep, John Peck, Isaac Warner, Wilson Warner, Peter Evans, Christian Leech, Jacob Hoffman, James Jones, Silas Gilbert, Daniel Bowan, Henry Felton, Willm. Davay, Joseph Hall, Jacob Fawood, Morris Fowler,

Jacob Johnson, Jacob Amos, Isaac Hayes, Willm. Elliot, Robert Platt, Edmund Phisick, Phenias Roberts, Willm. Peters, Rich. Peters, John Lukins, John Penn, Willm. Hamilton.

The list of "Inmates" of the above-named housekeepers' families and of "Single freemen" includes the following names:

John Thomas, Jr, David Jones, Francis Letherman, Andrew Supplee, Matthew McCrate, Edward Haley, David Seldrack, Jur., George Hansil, John Lacock, John Stradling, Peter Worrel, David George, Francis Higgings, Phenias Roberts, Jos. Sellers, Martin Waller, Jr., Abra. Smith, Ben. Smith, Arch. Watson, Thos. Campble, Jos. Campble, Mourton Garrett, John Hall, Jos. King, Jont. Kite, Willm. Kite, Arth. Kite, Mich. Cate, Adam Keller, Abra. Keller, Isaac Roberts, Willm. Warner, Joshua Levis, Will. Miller, Will. Leech, John Leech, Moses Wells, Thos. Clarrige, Charles Arnold, Rich. Whitfield.

It goes without saying that the above-named are valuable to the genealogists of to-day. Many of these names are also found in the "Pennsylvania Archives, second series," in the lists of Revolutionary soldiers.

In the assessor's list, the occupation of William Warner is given as "Soldier." From this your historian supposes that he may have been a volunteer in the Continental Army for a lengthy period of time. The other residents of Blockley, who fought for Independence, were mostly "Associators," or members of the "Philadelphia County Militia." The same battalion, in various years, included both Blockley and Merion, which latter territory was not cut off from Philadelphia county until 1784.

It is to be regretted that the Revolutionary records are not complete. From such data as available, your historian has found the following names in Col. Heston's Assessor's List, which also appears in the lists of Revolutionary soldiers resident in Pennsylvania:

Joseph Jones, William Rose, Peter Rose, John Davis, Peter Ott, Morton Garrett, Christian Miller, Isaac Kite, William Kite, Anthony Kite, Abraham Streeper, Isaac Warner, William Warner, Thomas Campble, Joseph Campbell, John George, Thomas Roberts, George Hansell, Henry Smith, James Wallace (Wallis), Abram Smith, John Hall, Joseph King, Isaac Roberts, Peter Evans, William Leech, John Leech, Jacob Hoffman, Charles Arnold, William Miller, James Jones, Joseph Hall, Jacob Johnson, William Elliot.

As the great majority of names sound familiar to us all, it seems quite probable that the majority of these Pennsylvania soldiers were actual residents of Blockley.

Thomas Wynn was a Revolutionary soldier, sometime resident of Blockley. His name does not appear on the assessor's list, but the 100 acres of land, marked as the "Estate of Thomas Wynn, deceased," were held, or rented by Thomas Waters. This Thomas Wynn, deceased, was the father of the Revolutionary soldier. This patriot had

been detained for a number of years by the British, in their horrible prison-ship "Jersey." Probably the old farm was leased during his absence.

Some of the entries in the assessors' list are very curious. Thus it appears that slaves were kept in Revolutionary days, even in the free, Quaker State of Pennsylvania, under the heading of "Negroes and Mulattres." It will be seen that George Gray owned two, as his personal property; Rebecca Sandown, widow, one; John Penn, Gent., three, and William Hamilton, one.

Another curious circumstance is, that, on large plantations, only a small number of "horned cattle" were kept. Thus David Jones, with 200 acres, had but 8; John

Thomas, with 135 acres, only 4; Jonas Supplee, with 110 acres, 2; Edward Williams, with 100 acres, 3, and so on. The largest number held by any one person was 11. These cattle belonged to George Gray, of Gray's Ferry, who possessed 300 acres in Philadelphia county, and 246 acres in Chester county. Mr. Edward Heston gives it as his opinion that the reason for this singular state of things, in early days, was that no attempt was made to cultivate grass for pasture and hay, but that cattle were obliged to depend upon scant patches of meadow for grazing ground.

Improved methods of farming, introduced into Pennsylvania since the Revolution, are largely due to Judge Peters, of Belmont. To this eminent jurist belongs the credit of importing gypsum as a fertilizer, in 1797. Judge Peters was, during the Revolution, a member of the Board of War. Later, President of the Philadelphia Agricultural Society.

In the assessor's list appears the name, Richard Peters, Gent. He holds 180 acres of land, with one dwelling house. Owns 70 ounces of plate, 2 horses, 5 horned cattle, 6 sheep and has 7 white inhabitants in his family.

Among other residents having a quantity of plate may be mentioned John Penn, Gent., 224 ounces; William Hamilton, 60 ounces; Edmund Phisick, Gent., 37 ounces; George Gray, Gent., 70 ounces, and Isaac Gray, Gent., 30 ounces.

Why have modern critics raised a cry against that old-time abbreviation, "Gent," and defined it as a "vulgar fraction of a gentleman?" Such critics can hardly be familiar with old records. That abbreviation is historic. It belongs to our Colonial history just as much as "yeoman" or "freeman" or "redemptioner" does. It is found in the "Colonial Records" of two hundred years ago. In several old documents, John ap Thomas, one of the founders of Merion, is described both as "yeoman" and "Gent." Your historian is somewhat inclined to think that the "Gents." were the real gentlemen, and that the modern outcry against the antique term is merely a rhetorical fad. True, it has been abused in trade-signs; but these signs were not composed without good authority in the first place. If all our men are becoming "Gents"—that only means the triumph of patriotic principles, and the

democratic levelling upward for which the American Revolution prepared the way.

Of the above-named "Gents." John Penn merits special notice. He was the grandson of William Penn, and the last royal Governor of Pennsylvania. His residence was the "Lansdowne Mansion," which he built upon his extensive property in what is now the West Park. "Lansdowne" was destroyed by fire, July 4, 1854, through the irrepressible small boy and the fire-cracker. Strange to say, the Commissioners of Fairmount Park seemed ignorant of the historic character of the walls, and ordered them demolished. Horticultural Hall stands on the spot.

In the Assessor's list the number of acres given for the Lansdowne property is 240. The name "Lansdowne" is derived from John Penn's English title of "Lord Lansdowne."

John Penn was popular in Pennsylvania. Although the Revolution deprived him of office, he was not an aggressive Tory. He spent the last years of his life in Philadelphia, dying in 1795.

Washington visited Governor Penn, at Lansdowne, in 1787, during the sitting of the Constitutional Convention. Joseph Bonaparte, ex-King of Spain, lived here in 1816. The last owner of the place, before it passed into the hands of the Park Commissioners, was Lord Ashburton, whose family name was Baring. This well-known family of bankers gave the name to Baring street. Lord Ashburton with Daniel Webster, arranged the Webster and Ashburton treaty, fixing the 49th parallel as the northern boundary of the United States west of the Great Lakes.

After the death of Governor Penn, Lansdowne became the property of William Bingham, an eminent patriot. He was agent of the Continental Congress in the West Indies, during the Revolution. Afterwards, captain of a troop of dragoons; also, Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and United States Senator. His wife, who had been Miss Ann Willing, was famous for her beauty and accomplishments.

William Hamilton was a Tory who barely escaped conviction for treason. He resided at "The Woodlands," now Woodlands Cemetery. He was a nephew of Governor James Hamilton. The Woodlands property had been purchased by Andrew Hamilton, Sr., about the middle of the 18th century. Here resided Andrew Hamilton, 2d., his son William, the Tory, and the latter's nephew, William. This family gave the name to Hamiltonville. The property extended to Nangansey, or Mill Creek, now mostly hidden in a sewer throughout its course in West Philadelphia. This creek we already know in its upper branch as "George's Run."

George Gray, another extensive land holder, afforded a shining contrast. He was intensely loyal to the cause of independence. He was a member of the "Provisional Convention," "Committee of Safety" and "Board of War."

Gray's Ferry, known before the Revolution as the "Lower Ferry," in distinction

from the "Middle Ferry" at Market street, and the "Upper Ferry" at Spring Garden street, is quite historic. A ferry existed at this spot as early as 1682. It was kept by Benjamin Chambers, and his passengers were mostly Swedes. During the Revolution a bridge of boats was built, first by the British, afterwards improved by the Americans. Over this bridge of boats Washington passed in 1789, on his way from Virginia to New York to be inaugurated as President. The bridge was gayly decorated in his honor. Martha Washington also had a triumphal passage over this bridge, on her way to join her eminent husband. Thomas Jefferson at one time resided in the neighborhood. After the Revolution "Gray's Garden" became a place of popular resort. In 1812 "Fort Hamilton" was erected near Gray's Ferry.

"William Peters, Est." is mentioned in the Assessor's List. This was part of the Belmont property, which itself was part of the 1000 acres purchased in 1681 by Dr. Thomas Wynne and John ap John (Jones).

William Peters, the father of Richard Peters, was a Tory. He returned to England where he died.

Among the residents of Blockley who aided the Revolutionary cause by holding civil office may be mentioned (besides Richard Peters, George Gray and William Bingham), the following:

Jesse George, a member of the Committee on Correspondence.

Phenias Roberts, a member of a committee to collect supplies for Revolutionary soldiers.

At the risk of doing injustice to many worthy names, your historian passes on rapidly to speak of another curious fact shown by the Assessor's List. That is, that carriages were few. Evidently people traveled mostly on horseback. Almost every householder kept several "horses and mares." Under the head of "Riding Chairs and Coaches," it is recorded that

Isaac Gray, Gent., had 1 chair; John Snapple, farmer, 1 chair; George Gray, Gent., 1 chair; Jacob Waggoner, inn-keeper, 1 chair; William Peters, Est., 1 Phaeton; John Penn, Gent., 1 Coach, 1 Phaeton; William Hamilton, 1 chair.

Following is the list of "Non-Residents," owning property in Blockley:

Ann Emlen, Will Smith, Joseph Dean, George Clymer, Edward George, Thos. Willing, Samuel Powell, David Beveridge, Sanders and Reaves, Joseph Ogden, Thomas Marshall, Jr., Nathan Thomas, John Sellars, Pick's Lands, Wilfong's do., Widow Shaw's do., Marsh's Land, John Ross's do., Huft's do., Sarah Pawling, Willing and Francis, Jacob Plankingham, Francis Lees.

In the above list is found the names of George Clymer, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Ladies, this is history. Not the preconceived notions of book historians—but true history, as it is found in old documents, relating to our own neighborhoods, our own friends, our own families. Let every chap-

ter of the Daughters of the American Revolution do for its own district what the members of Merion Chapter have tried to do for theirs—and the Twentieth Century will see a true history of the Revolutionary War.

From, Recorder
Conshohocken Pa.

Date, Feby 7 1896.

CALVARY CHURCH

CONSHOHOCKEN, PA.

THE VESTRY—Regular Meetings:
Third Tuesday in January, July and October, Tuesday next before, Easter, and Thursday in Easter week.

Rector's Warden—Mr. Charles Lukens.
Accounting Warden—Mr. John F. Bowker.

VESTRYMEN:

Mr. John B. Burnley,	Mr. Conrad B. Lee,
Mr. William Cleaver,	Mr. J. Ellwood Lee,
Mr. Charles E. Herron,	Mr. William S. Whitton.

Sexton—Mr. James A. Daugherty.

SERVICES:

Sundays:

8.30 A. M. Holy Communion, first Sunday in each Month 10.30 A. M.
10.30 A. M. Service and Sermon.

7.00 P. M. Evening Prayer and Sermon.

9.15 A. M. Sunday School and Bible Classes.

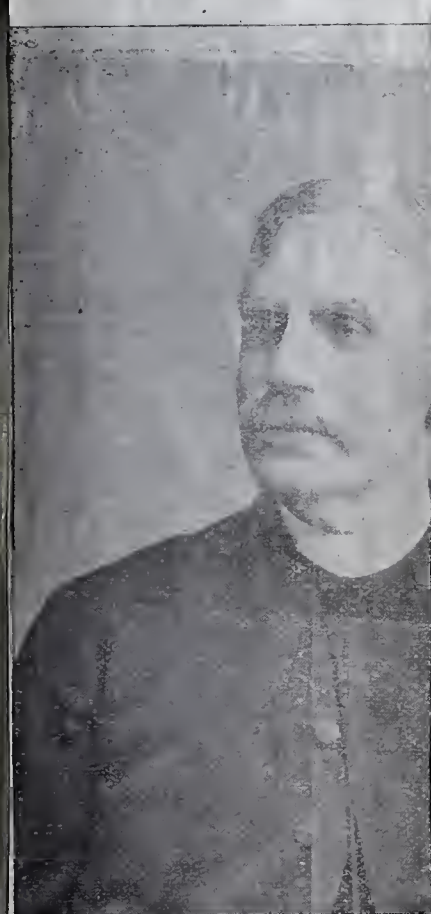
Fridays:

7.30 P. M. Evening Prayer and Sermon.

Holy Days:

9.00 A. M. Holy Communion.

Holy Baptism 3.30 P. M. Third Sunday in each month, and by special appointment.



RECTOR, REV. HERBERT

A History of the Parish

Believing that it will be interesting and profitable, I have taken pains to gather some facts of our Parish History, and I need make no apology for taking the time to make you acquainted with them. They will show much reason for encouragement; and the earnest work and deep interest of many in the past is a pledge and a promise for the future. This discourse and this sketch will appear in our little Parish paper. And I trust that this copy (February, 1896) will be preserved and that the spirit of the sermon and the gathered facts will both be an inspiration and a help to greater things as the months and years go by.

As in the case of most parishes, there has naturally been more interest in making than in writing, history. Many incidents and events, therefore, are lost in the passage of time. We have three main sources of information in our present labor of love: The minutes of the Vestries, always faithfully kept; the Journals of the Diocese; some records in the Parish Register, especially a few precious pages begun by Mr. Cresson and continued by Mr. Lukens. I shall quote from all these indiscriminately.

1858. "The first service of the series which resulted in the establishment of Calvary Church, Conshohocken, was held in the old school house, July 25, 1858. Rev. Wm. H. Rees and Rev. M. Hurst officiating; Rev. J. W. Claxton also present. August 15, Rev. E. L. Lycett first attended, and October 3, he entered upon the regular charge of the Mission. October 10, a Sunday School was started with 15 scholars. December 17. At a meeting held this evening it was decided to organize a Parish under the name of Calvary Church." Articles of association were proposed and considered at this time.

1859. The first notice of our parish or borough which I can find in the Journal of the Diocese of Pennsylvania—is in the report of the Rev. Edward L. Lycett, Rector of the Church of the Redeemer, Lower Merion, for the year 1859, the same convention at which were presented by the Standing Committee the Charter and Articles of Association of Calvary Church, Conshohocken, among others. All who are familiar with our early history in "the

day of small things," will remember the then Rector of Lower Merion. To him we are largely indebted, under God, for the beginning of a strong and growing organization. I quote his words with great pleasure.

"I had been for some time anxious for the opportunity to extend my labors in some location that would be of permanent usefulness. My attention was directed, only in the autumn of '58, to the borough of Conshohocken, five miles from Norristown and six from my present residence. There I commenced a regular Sunday afternoon service, and have had the pleasure of seeing a manifest increase of the congregation, as well as other evidences that the work of the Lord is prospering. A Sunday School has been organized, now numbering about 60 scholars, with good and efficient teachers, I have baptized two adults and eight children, and have admitted four persons to communion. Hitherto we have been worshipping in a school house—rented for the purpose—but much too small to accommodate those who weekly throng there."

"The Vestry, composed of active, zealous men, are now anxious to build a plain church, in order to meet what are the real wants of the Parish, and as a blessing has attended our efforts so far, they rely upon being able to accomplish it. Up to this time we have 29 families, 16 communicants, connected with the church. A handsome silk gown was presented to me by the ladies of the parish. A melodeon has been procured to aid in the psalmody of the church. The weekly collection pays all incidental expenses. A considerable sum of money was handed to me without an intimation as to its use, but I presume was intended as a manifestation of gratitude for services which had been altogether voluntary. And now, if it be asked where the support of a minister is to come from, should a church building be obtained? I answer, from where the support of most ministers comes from at the early organization of a church among the poor. What they cannot do for themselves must be done for them. Certainly a place containing 1500 inhabitants (many of whom are anxious to enjoy the advantages of their own church, and yet have none within three miles, and which is so near to Philadelphia) should not be destitute of church privileges. When the churches



at Norristown and Manayunk were started, it was with much less to encourage them than has been seen in the present enterprise. And if, in the providence of God, the present means of supplying this want, by the services of a volunteer laborer, should cease, we may surely hope that, with what can be done by themselves, and what aid could be secured from other sources, the services of this church, commenced so auspiciously, will be sustained, until, like the neighboring parishes, it becomes self-supporting. We have begun, and by God's blessing we intend to continue and to carry on the work, nothing doubting that we shall 'reap in due season if we faint not.'

"February 27, 1859, was held the first communion, eight communicants. March 27, two adults baptized. April 24, Easter Day, twelve communicants. April 25, first election of Vestrymen under the charter." It will be interesting to recall their names: J. K. Reid, M. D., C. E. Morris, Edwin Jeffries, Chas. Davis, Wm. Brown, Walter Cresson, A. B. Shipley, Theodore Trewendt, Wm. P. Cresson, J. B. Morehead. Mr. Walter Cresson was elected Church Warden, and subsequently

the Rev. Mr. Lycett appointed Dr. Ried, Rector's Warden. July 19, 1859, a plan for a church building was submitted to the Vestry and by them adopted, and the Finance Committee directed to proceed with its erection as funds would permit.

The work of church building proceeded steadily, there being then the same earnestness and generosity manifested, which has always and in a very marked degree, characterized our beloved Parish, especially in the line of permanent improvements. First service in the new church February 19. Bishop Bowman present at the p. m. service, and Rev. Mr. Stuart preaching in the evening.

1860. The young parish was represented for the first time in the convention of 1860, and by Messrs. Walter Cresson and Theodore Trewendt. The Rt. Rev. S. Bowman, Assistant Bishop, reports a visitation and a confirmation of seven persons. April 10, the Rev. E. L. Lycett was elected Rector, but his relations to another parish prevented his acceptance, though an arrangement was entered into by which his services were continued.

The report of Mr. Cresson, Senior Warden, to the convention of 1860, is interest-

ing, as the first one in detail from the field itself. It is as follows:

Congregation, families, 31; baptisms, 14; confirmed, 8; communicants, 18; several have removed the past year; burial, 1; Sunday School teachers, 7; scholars, 50.

Referring to the report of Rev. E. L. Lycett of last year, I would add that the expectations then held have been realized, and that we have succeeded in building, upon a lot presented by one of the Vestry [I think Mr. Cresson himself], a plain gothic church, with seats for about 250 persons, at a cost of less than \$2500, on which, when our present subscriptions are collected, we shall not owe more than \$500, which we trust the liberality of our friends will enable us to liquidate this summer.

Twenty-one pews have been rented. Rev. E. L. Lycett has continued his services, to the volunteer offering of which the existence of our organization is mainly due; we have hitherto, in consequence of the efforts required from us to erect the church building, been unable to offer him any salary in acknowledgement of his kind and successful labors among us; but we have made an appropriation from the pew-rents to that object, and we trust that, consistently with his obligations to his own Parish, he may be able to continue his services here."

Rev. Mr. Lycett also speaks encouraging words in his report for the same year. He adds: "My attention has been given during the past year to a very destitute neighborhood (the village of Spring Mill), situated on the banks of the Schuylkill, where I have held frequent services on week days. I have also baptized their children, visited their sick, and buried their dead. The statistics of these labors will appear in Calvary Church report."

1861. In 1861 the same clergyman reports: "I still have charge of Calvary Church, Conshohocken. In that Parish I have performed the following official duties, besides preaching once on Sundays, and occasionally on week-days at Spring Mill, since the last report.

Baptisms, 9; confirmed, 3; communicants, present number, 20. Amount of salary promised, \$300." On May 26, Bishop Bowman again visited the parish and confirmed three persons. July 16, "Mr. Walter Cresson reported that the deed for the church lot had been entered on record in the Recorder's office at Nor-

ristown, in and for the county of Montgomery, in Deed Book No. 120, page 436, etc.

November 12, we read that "Convocation services began on this evening and were continued the two following days with pretty good success.

1862. The Warden's report for 1862 reports the parish as more than holding its own. Financially, \$204.87 was realized and paid over to the officiating minister. Mr. Cresson says: "The church is still under the pastoral care of Rev. E. L. Lycett, Rector of the Church of the Redeemer, Lower Merion, who has held service regularly, on Sunday afternoons, on Friday evenings during Lent, and on the evenings of Thanksgiving and Christmas days. There was also, in November last, a series of services by the Southern Convocation." July 15, 1862, we find record of a "very successful festival by the ladies of the church, who handed over \$208.42 to pay bonded debt with interest.

We can easily imagine the pleasure with which the following report was made, after the labor and self-denial necessary to such a result.

1863. At a regular meeting of the Vestry held January 20, 1863, after directing the secretary to express their thanks for the services of Mr. Orlando Crease and the choir of St. David's, Manayunk, on the occasion of the consecration of the church (and this was by no means the only time when such musical services were rendered by Mr. Crease and his associates), the Vestry received the following report from the Wardens, and it was advised that it should be filed for future reference:

"To the Vestry of Calvary Church, Conshohocken." The Wardens respectfully report that on the 7th of the present month, our church building which was freed from debt by the successful efforts of the ladies of the congregation, was consecrated to the service of Almighty God, by the Rt. Rev. Alonzo Potter, D. D., Bishop of the Diocese, there being present of the Clergy, Rev. Messrs. Lycett, Claxton, Yocum, Clemson, and Lavery, and the Rev. Dr. Newton, who preached the sermon. The pleasure of the services was very much increased by the presence of the organist and choir of St. David's, Manayunk, whose performance of the service was admirable and deserving special

Thanks."

Walter Cresson,

J. K. Ried,

Wardens.

"In the evening after the Consecration service, convocation services were begun and continued next day and evening." Bishop Alonzo Potter confirmed two persons. The Rev. E. L. Lyeett adds to his report for this year the following words:

"A service on Sunday afternoons and some few extra services on week-days, have been conducted by me at Calvary Church, Conshohocken. My connection with Calvary Church is about to be dissolved in order that they may procure a resident minister of their own. In retiring from this interesting field, I may be permitted to record my gratitude to Almighty God for what I have been permitted to see accomplished as the result of my missionary labors in Conshohocken and my anxious hope that much spiritual good may attend the labors of the minister who may be called to succeed me there."

September 1. "Notice received from Rev. E. L. Lyeett that he would discontinue his services after this month. The church was closed through the winter." I believe this is the longest period without services from 1858 to 1866, for the

Vestries seconded and by the people's wishes and support, have acted with promptness that deserves commendation in filling vacancies and in keeping the church open for public worship.

1864. Convention report shows that the church was closed from October, 1863, to April, 1864, and there was a consequent falling off in numbers, though, perhaps, this was the cause and, the closed church the consequence. The pastor is the "Rev. John Tetlow, deacon, elected minister, with a salary of \$500, March 22. Church opened April 3. Services morning and evening until the end of November, when the latter were discontinued."

1865. I am tempted to turn aside a moment in looking over the convention journal of 1865 to note the patriotic address of the late and beloved Bishop Stevens, also the resolutions on public affairs, introduced by the Hon. Horace Binney, particularly on the tragic death of President Lincoln. But the time does not suffice, on this occasion, even to turn back a leaf of history and to think again of the momentous events which thirty years

have seemed to put so far in the background of our stirring, onrushing, public and private life. More than once as I have turned over faded and yellow leaves with their records of the triumphs of the Prince of Peace in this quiet community, have I thought of those eventful years when the ink was fresh on these pages. What anxiety in all hearts. What tension in all minds. Personal affection, family ties, private interest, public weal, all, all were involved in the struggle and none could foresee the result. Easy to say afterwards, "There could be but one issue." But that sublime certainty did not exist while the conflict raged. Peace came at last, and it came none too soon. And today we rejoice that breaches have been healed and we now live and work and worship—one people under one flag—a banner more precious, more beautiful to sight as it is dear to the heart because it has been bathed in blood and sprinkled with the dust and ashes of war.

There is nothing of special interest in the journal of this year regarding Calvary Church. The Rev. Mr. Tetlow is the pastor, and the parish shows a little gain in numbers.

1866. The resignation of Rev. John Tetlow was accepted with regret January 23, 1866. At the same meeting of the Vestry the Rev. Thomas S. Yocum was called to the parish, who "entered upon his duties, as Rector, April 1." Mr. Yocum held services at Swede's church in the morning and here in afternoon.

Rev. T. S. Yocum in charge. Sunday School increased to 75 pupils, and communicants to 28.

1867. February 20, 1867, there was organized a Parish Aid Society with suitable constitution and by-laws. We judge that the constitution was healthy and the by-laws duly observed, from the good work afterwards accomplished by this association. But much of such work while, like the sub-walls of a towering building, absolutely essential, is hidden from sight and makes no showing even in simple annals like these. But the results of this and the various parochial organizations from that day to this appear in Rectors and Vestries encouraged, in money raised and expended, and general parish interest kept alive and indefinitely increased.

"February 24. Thirteen persons were confirmed by Bishop Vail, of Kansas, our own Bishop Stevens being absent in Eu-

rope."

1868. Referring again to the Parish Aid Society, I find this minute on the Secretary's book of a Vestry meeting held July 21, 1868. "It was unanimously conceded that the organization was a very excellent one; and should, by all means, be continued, as it had been the means, thus far, of advancing very materially the pecuniary interests of the church. Funds had been furnished through it, sufficient to pay the expenses of certain improvements, which it would have been very difficult to procure by Sunday School collections alone."

1869. As the parish grew and the Sunday school increased the need was more apparent of some kind of a parish building. The first steps were taken by the appointment, January 21, 1869, of a committee to take the matter in charge, certain plans having been suggested and proposed. Dr. Reid, Mr. Jeffries and Mr. Lukens were named as such committee.

No report from Calvary Church appears in the Journal of 1869. July 20, there were reported subscriptions towards a lot for the parish building amounting to \$812.-50.

1870. April 18, 1870, the committee reported the purchase of a lot of William P. Cresson, 60 feet by 120, for \$1000, the deed for which was then submitted. Of the total sum for the lot \$197.50 was contributed by the Parish Aid Society.

The Rev. Mr. Yocum continued in charge until after convention, May, 1870.

1871. The report for 1871 is again by the Warden, who says:

"This church having been vacant since the resignation of Rev. T. S. Yocum, which took effect at the end of May last, it falls upon me to make the annual report of the parish. The services of the Church have been fully maintained on Sundays, and four times on other days. This was done during last summer by such supplies as we could get from week to week, and in the month of September we made an arrangement with Mr. T. W. Davidson, Student of Divinity, who has since acted as lay reader, and taken full charge of the services and Sunday school, to our great satisfaction. The school is now in very excellent condition, with 13 attentive teachers, and 95 scholars. Of the general comparative statistics I can say but little.

An attempt has been made to get up a

list of communicants, and we have reached the number of 45. The attendance on services is generally good. "We note in the same report that pew rents have risen to \$633.50, and that \$676 have been paid for clerical services.

During the summer of 1871 the church was renovated under the direction of a competent committee, who report to the Vestry on October 17th, that "so much progress has been made as to lead us to expect the opening of the church for service on Sunday next;" a hope which, it seems, was realized, and the people again rejoiced in the results of this united and earnest labors for the glory of God and the advancement of His church.

1872. The church record for 1872 is made by Rev. T. Wm. Davidson, Rector, who had been ordained Deacon June 23, 1871. The report states that the salary is \$800, Sunday school teachers, 17, and scholars 131. The generous disposition of the people, always characteristic of them, is shown in the increased number of offerings for extra-parochial objects. One item \$56.09 for "Chicago sufferers" recalls one of the most serious and tragic conflagrations of history.

Rev. Mr. Davidson writes:

"During August, September and part of October, the carpenters, plasterers and fresco painters, in whose hands the church has been placed, completely changed its internal appearance, and have made it one of the most beautiful and comfortable churches of the size in the Diocese. The exact cost of the improvements I am unable to learn, but judge the sum to be about \$1200, all of which has been paid, leaving the church free from all indebtedness."

Rev. Mr. Davidson continued in charge of the parish until June, 1872. From that time until December services were kept up by supplies from the city. December 1, 1872, the Rev. A. E. Tortat became Rector of the Parish.

1873. The journal of 1873 is very interesting. Sunday School shows marked increase with 21 teachers and 145 scholars, communicants 52. The Rector is the Rev. A. E. Tortat and the salary has increased to \$1000. Total offerings and expenditures, \$1174.88; value of property, \$10,000.

The new minister says: "I became Rector of Calvary church on December 1st (1872), and this report only includes my

official acts since then, the church receiving supplies from the city the previous six months. Being so long without a shepherd, the sheep have scattered and become discouraged. The long winter of chilling discouragement, however, is gradually passing. The genial breath of God's Spirit is blowing upon us, and melting the hearts of this people, into a family of active and cheerful workers, who are now busy sowing the seeds of joyful harvest. By next September they will have a parsonage erected at a cost of over \$4,000, chiefly their own liberal gifts. These people have taxed themselves to the utmost for this object, and they deserve the "material" sympathy of all liberal givers. We greatly need a building for Sunday, Infant, Night and Parish School, where we can have a library and reading room, to draw the workmen from the taverns, entertain and instruct them, and finally bring them to God." The report closes with some estimates of the cost of such an enterprise and an appeal for the assistance of liberal givers.

April 1, 1873, ground was broken for the new rectory, and the work, greatly advanced by the Ladies' Parsonage Aid Society, was completed during the season. The Rector and his wife took possession the first of November, and found not only a comfortable home but everything necessary to begin housekeeping. This year a new heater was placed beneath the church at a cost of \$351.30. Also several rooms in the rectory were carpeted by the ladies in addition to the \$500 in cash pledged and paid by them.

1874 March 19, 1874, there was an anniversary concert at the residence of Mr. Theodore Trewendt for the Parish Aid Society. There was a tea at Washita Hall, June 5, and thus the ladies kept things moving. A \$650 organ was purchased, paid for and put into the church in place of the sorry little melodeon that had so long one duty to the best of its reedy and limited ability. The instrument from force of habit, associated with "the day of small things" still does excellent service in the Infant School. The brief record of the parish contains an interesting account of the opening of the new organ, with many words of appreciation of those who so kindly assisted on the happy occasion. We learn also that gas was introduced into the borough and church this year, and

evening services were begun on Christmas night.

1875. The Rev. Mr. Tortat's reports to convention for 1874 and 1875 inform us that the number of communicants for those years respectively was 77 and 93; Sunday school teachers 28 and 26; scholars 200 and 210. In 1874 parsonage and improvements cost \$4130. Same items, 1875, \$1113.15. Regarding the rectory, we read: "During the past year my congregation has built a very comfortable and unique parsonage at a cost of nearly \$5000, and the Ladies Parsonage Aid Society has carpeted it in part, and have undertaken to pay the interest on the remaining indebtedness. Considering their means, the people have done nobly, and the whole work is quite encouraging."

The crowded condition of the church and the need of a parish building are reiterated with emphasis. The Rector deploras, as every right minded person must do, one marked feature of social life here, "the large number of young people who roam through the streets nightly, get into bad company, frequent taverns, etc.," and expresses the desire that means may be found "to entertain and instruct them, and gradually win them to Christ."

1876-7. November 15, 1874. Bishop Stevens had confirmed 21 persons. January 9, 1876, he confirmed ten persons.

The number of communicants in 1876 was 105, Sunday school holding its own. There was again a slight falling back owing to changes. "The Rev. A. E. Tortat's official relations with the parish as Rector ceased on January 1st, A. D., 1877, he having resigned on account of ill-health.

The Rev. James J. Creigh assumed charge on Easter Sunday, 1st of April, A. D., 1877. The Rev. O. Perinchief, Rector of Swedes' Church, held services in the afternoon from January to April, 1877.

1878. Bishop Stevens visited the parish February 10, 1878, and confirmed 9 persons. During the year 1878 the Vestry of this parish had several meetings in which the old subject "Increase of Revenue" was the theme. As the outcome of these deliberations, resort was had to the use of envelopes, and the urging upon all members of the congregation the importance of systematic giving. The last paragraph of the circular issued at that time is worthy

of a place here, as it is certainly the key of all successful parish financiering. "If each member of the church will give, under this system, as much as he or she is able, there will no longer be a deficiency. One of the foremost duties of a Christian is to contribute of his substance liberally for the promotion of the Master's work, and those who attend this church surely have not failed to recognize that that work is done here under promising conditions. Those who desire it to proceed with greater energy may help to obtain that result by giving the present scheme their practical approval."

John Cresson, Secretary.

By order of the Vestry.

There is a very touching minute on the Vestry records of this year for December 17th on the death of Mr. James Wrigley, who served as a Vestrymen of this parish for twelve years, "and who" it is recorded, "was rarely absent from our business meetings, and always interested himself in the welfare of the church. I sometimes wonder why more of our young men do not strive for and hold themselves ready to earn such honest commendation, and that higher praise which the Master himself will give to all "good and faithful servants." It takes time, it costs labor and it often makes us much trouble to do our church work. It is much easier to stand aside and let others do it all. But oh, that is not the best, nor even a good way, because we know it is not the right way: and I am sure that among the surprises of the day of judgment the greatest will be the accounting for things not done which God gave us the ability and call to do.

1879. In 1879 a strong, but apparently fruitless appeal for outside help towards a Sunday school building was made.

The Journal 1879 makes reference to the Men's Guild and the Women's Guild, which have always proved so efficient in our parochial work. "These two associations were organized during Lent," says the Rector, "and have already done good work in the parish." Eight persons confirmed.

1880. 1880's Journal says that "the Parish Library of secular and religious books, numbers more than 300 volumes, chiefly donations. It is the purpose of the Parish to erect next year a large and commodious building for Sunday school

and other parochial uses."

The Vestry records of the year show constant discussions of the proposed building, the getting of bids, securing subscriptions. Mention is also made of several donations from persons outside the parish. During the year the contract was let and the construction began.

The Rev. Jas. J. Creigh resigned the Rectorship, like his predecessor, because of ill-health, and his resignation was accepted with regret, to take effect January 1, 1881.

1881. The Journal for 1881 bears the familiar and much-loved name of the Rev. A. B. Atkins, D. D., who took charge of the parish, March 15, 1881. Communicants reported 89, officers and teachers: the Sunday school and Bible Class 26, pupils 206, 40 persons were confirmed June 24. The item of "other information" gives the fulfilment of last year's prophecy, as follows: "The commodious and admirably arranged Parish Building erected by the self-denying efforts of the Parishioners aided by gifts from friends outside the parish, was formally opened at Christmas (1880)" The statement of the treasurer of the Parish Building shows the following items: Building, \$6600.83; outside, \$251.70; finishing, \$1429.27; organ, \$336.82. Total cost, \$8618.62.

1882. In 1882 the Rector reports that "the mortgage with accrued interest, \$1612.50, and the floating debt of \$500 have been paid, and that the parish is now entirely out of debt. In addition to this the Sunday school room and Library room have been decorated and carpeted, the organ removed from the body of the church to the niche by the side of the chancel, and the church aisles carpeted, for all of which there is no indebtedness. Confirmed, April 16th, 18 persons.

1883. The Rector reports 18 confirmations in 1883, and that there are 170 communicants, and the property has grown to \$20,000. June 12, a meeting was held to consider the re-building of the church.

1884. In 1884 he says "the chancel of the new church was commenced on the 1st of May, and will be completed about the 1st September. It will give us fifty-six additional sittings. In two or three years we hope to see the new church entirely finished."

This year there were 30 confirmed by

Bishop Stevens. Services were held in the parish building during the summer of 1884. The new church completed; the church was re-opened September 1st.

1885. This promise of a renovated church was fulfilled. It was completed September, 1884, and "used for the first time on the last Sunday of that month. It cost \$5000, all paid. The furniture (mostly memorial gifts), was presented by friends of the Rector. A liberal parishioner presented an excellent furnace, thereby largely promoting the comfort of the worshippers."

1886. In 1886 the communicant list was 219, 37 persons having been confirmed this year and last. Financial condition: Aggregate value of property of the parish real and personal, \$25,000; encumbrances, mortgages on church edifice, none; on other buildings, none."

1887. In 1887 the Rector says: "Rejoicing at the steady onward growth of this parish, we cannot expect much further progress till we have a new church, our pressing want being pews and sittings. May it please the Great Head of the Church to move the hearts of the people towards the speedy accomplishment of this most desirable object."

At a meeting held October 18, 1887, we learn that Mr. W. H. Eastham had been engaged as organist.

1888. At the first meeting of the Vestry January 10, 1888, "the Rector announced that two of the officers of the church had subscribed a sum sufficient to have the new church put under contract, according to plans and specifications furnished by Mr. Burns. A building committee of three was appointed to make the contracts and have the work under way, which was accordingly done. The consideration and perfecting of plans, raising subscriptions, making contracts, etc., called for frequent meetings of the Vestry and made great demands upon their time as upon their means and of the congregation. But this did not prevent the advancement of the Rector's salary, nor the purchase of two small houses by the Rectory, for the purpose of making it larger and more commodious for Rectors and their families. The change is not less appreciated, I feel sure, by the present than by the former occupants.

At a Vestry meeting held October 10, 1888, the following preamble and resolution were unanimously adopted: "Whereas, it is the desire of the Rector of this church, and it believed of a large proportion of the congregation also, to have the choir of men and boys suitably robed when engaged in the services of the Sanctuary, and as the importance of such provision is apparent since it is contemplated to seat the choir in the new church building within and in front of the chancel, and it is also believed that the robing of the choir would be conducive to greater order and decency, and attractiveness in the church service, it is Resolved, That such vestments as the Rector may approve shall be procured for the use of the choir, to be worn when the new church is opened for divine service, and thereafter whenever said choir is engaged in the solemn services of the sanctuary."

"Easter Day 1888, the last service was held in the old church building."

Workmen commenced removing the pews and on Monday, April 9th, the work of tearing down the church building was begun. This being preparatory to the erection of a new church on the same ground occupied by the other building. A fine new organ was purchased this year, the old one having been sold to another congregation.

The corner-stone of the new church was laid by Bishop Whitaker in the presence of a large congregation.

1889. The work of building was pushed with energy by the contractor Mr. Samuel Davis, and was ready for consecration, having been entirely paid for, in September, 1889. The 26th day of that month was set apart for the ceremony. The church was crowded, and the service was conducted by the Rt. Rev. O. W. Whitaker, D. D. The Bishop was assisted by the Rector, Rev. Dr. Atkins, Drs. Walsh, Watkins, Appleton, Conrad French, and Rev. Messrs. Brown and Burton; Dr. Glazebrook of Elizabeth, N. J., being the preacher.

There were also present Dr. Rudderow, Rev. Messrs. Duane, Hill, Gibson, Marple, Kellar, Miller, Milnor, Latimer, Sylvester, Franklin, Edwards, French, Bonnell, Bugbee, Hunt and Tortat.

The ladies of the Parish entertained the visitors with their well known graceful hospitality, and so ended one of the hap-

pest days in the history of our Parish.

In 1889 there were reported 221 Communicants. Sunday School and Bible Classes, teachers, 30, attendance, 384. Total expenditures, \$4011.90. The furniture of the old church was donated to the mission at Royersford, for which grateful acknowledgements were made.

1890. The next year we find the total expenditures of the church swollen to the grand sum of \$52,638.32 of which \$48,072.21 was for the Church building fund.

This year the beautiful window of the Hon. Alan Wood, Jr., was put in place, which, like the other memorials erected when the church was built, added much to its attractiveness and churchly appearance.

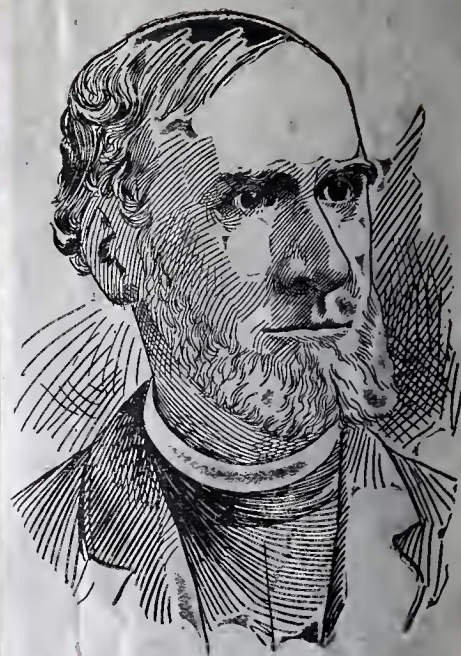
1892. In 1892 an elegant electric light was placed on the corner of the church at considerable expense, an outlay which could have been avoided had it been possible to foresee the lighting of the streets in the same manner.

1892. The Vestry received on April 6, 1893, a gift of \$225 from Miss Lukens' Bible Class to start a fund to liquidate the mortgage of \$6000 on the Rectory. The Vestry tendered their thanks for the donation and ordered the money placed at interest for the object named.

Mention might be made here of the revision of the Charter accomplished this year, and the vote of thanks on the part of the Vestry to Messrs. Rowland Evans and James B. Holland for their services in this important matter.

1894. Early in 1894 there was a shadow cast upon the Parish, but few thought that it was the shadow of that Visitor who knocks at the doors of rich and poor alike. The health of the Rector, Rev. Dr. Atkins, was evidently not as good as formerly. This became more apparent as the months rolled on. The Vestry, on several occasions, took sympathetic notice of the fact, and urged a complete rest in the hope that their Pastor might regain his strength. Their advice was followed, but, as it proved, it was too late. Dr. Atkins entered into "the rest that remaineth" October 22, 1894, having reached the age of threescore

and ten.



All the circumstances connected with that event so sad for you, so happy for him, are too fresh in the memory of a loving people to need recounting here. I had never met your late Rector, but I am sure that he fully deserved your affection, and the tributes of the Vestry, the Clergy, the press, and, best of all, of the many who rose up to call him blessed. His funeral was conducted in this Church, Rev. Edward Niver and Rev. James Lamb officiating. Bishop Whitaker was unavoidably absent. The interment was at Alexandria, Va. Rev. Mr. Lamb preached a memorial sermon on a Sunday soon after the burial, and I feel constrained to repeat a few of his words, which followed a most appreciative sketch of the life and character of Dr. Atkins. "Now to you, this sorrowing congregation, let me say that the greatest honor you can do to the teaching of your late Pastor, is to follow it out.

Like him, you may, by following the example of Christ, not only get nearer the Master yourself, but be enabled as well to bring other souls to Christ. Remember if you are to bless others, you must be blessed yourself. If you are to lift others up, you must be lifted up yourself.

May God teach us by the example

of those who have gone before, so to live, love, trust and work for Christ, that when called upon to depart hence in the Lord, it may be said of us: "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, for they rest from their labors."

For the remainder of the year the Parish was supplied by Rev. E. H. Supplee, who also preached a memorial sermon which was printed, and who now has himself passed through the shadows of earth and entered into light.

1895. The rest of my story is soon told—the beginning of a new tale yet to be written. Very unexpectedly your present Rector found himself in this church on the first Sunday of the New Year, being the day of Light, the feast of the Epiphany. The warm welcome which you extended to him, a stranger, and afterwards, to his family will never be forgotten. And when on the 19th of January an invitation was extended to remain with you to do here the Master's work, he was already disposed to accept the call. This was done soon after, and my work as Rector of the Parish was begun on the first Sunday in February. With some trials that we always expect and some that I had little reason to anticipate, I cannot but feel that the year has been a useful, as it has a busy, one. There was, as in the case of my predecessor, some early reaping where others had sown, and there has been the constant, earnest and loving endeavor to scatter everywhere the good seed, looking for good ground and content to wait for the fruit.

The Rectory, thoroughly renovated and greatly improved by thoughtful liberality, was occupied on the day before Easter. The congregation are reminded that its doors will ever open easily to every visitor and every call of the Parish.

Services have been multiplied with more frequent opportunities for breaking the Bread of Life. A parish paper, which seems a welcome visitor to your homes—I hope it is so—has been started. The Brotherhood of St. Andrew has a good working chapter, and also the Girls Friendly Society.

The old Guilds have continued their good work, and the Chancel Guild

has proved a valuable helper in church work. I have organized, and teach every Sunday, a Men's Bible Class. We have regular and special week day services, besides the Holy Communion on Sunday mornings—a service that is as plain and simple as can be.

I have baptized 39 adults and children; presented 11 persons for Confirmation; solemnized 7 marriages; buried 12; have preached twice on Sundays, and on some occasions three times, besides the week day lectures and addresses, and much Pastoral work. I have aimed to visit every household twice in the year. If this has failed in any instance for any reason it will be made up the present year, with a better knowledge of my people and where to find them.

1896. And now, Beloved, I return to our theme. We can do more than we have, or seem to have, the ability for in this place, if we are willing to consecrate ourselves to the work. God is ready and waiting to pour us out a blessing. I have at considerable pains searched all the records within reach, and have gone over, at some length, with you the interesting annals of the Parish, our Parish. I have not told it all. The complete record is written in books which are imperishable, with ink that fades not, books to which none of us have access now, but which will be opened hereafter. It is all written there; and no one ever spoke a word, dropped a tear, studied a problem, took a step, uttered a prayer, or gave a penny for the good of this Parish, but the remembrance of it is kept safely somewhere. What I have recalled has been to increase the interest of us all in the work of Christ and His Church and to plant in all our hearts and the hearts of our children, the laudable desire to do something real and substantial towards the making of our future history. May God bless us all and give us the desire and ability to bring our little loaves to Jesus that He may bless and break them for the good of men and for the saving of immortal souls.

Early Days of Montgomery County

By F.H. Taylor



IN the early spring of last year the members of half a dozen families in the city went out into the beautiful heart of Montgomery county twice in a single week to join their country cousins in the final scenes which closed the records of two aged ladies, the last of a large family, who were committed to the sacred soil of historic White Marsh Cemetery, and so, for the first time in its history, the quaint old homestead, built with its solid walls and queer little windows before Washington became President, was left cold and solitary. The thicket of old-fashioned vines and shrubs blossom all untended and untrained, and the pellucid waters of little Rose Valley stream dash over the stones where the mill once stood (for this was the house of the miller), and swirling along under the bridge of the Bethlehem pike close by, wander about the borders of Ambler until they find the Wissahickon, half a mile away. Then, a little later, the relatives came again and, with weeks of careful labor, the accumulated household belongings of a century or more were gathered from their corners, divided or arranged for the inevitable scattering which attends a country auction.

From, *Inquirer*

Philadelp

Date, *Dec 8 1896*

Among the treasure trove of that ancient attic, as we explored its dingy depths, nothing was discovered more interesting than the packages of letters and the old city and country newspapers which lined boxes and trunks, left unopened for more than fifty years; the books, prints and other literary flotsam, yellow with the stain of time, much of which came in the substantial sea chests from Holland with the young miller, so long, long ago.

Among this material, which I have hardly yet begun to study since I stored it away in a modern attic, there are some invitations addressed to certain



THE SPRING HOUSE MODERNIZED.



THE WATERS OF PELLUCID LITTLE ROSE VALLEY STREAM DASH OVER THE STONES WHERE THE MILL STOOD, AND SWIRL ALONG UNDER THE BRIDGE OF THE BETHLEHEM PIKE CLOSE BY."

sprightly young maidens, and these I especially prize, as they so exactly reflect the social conditions in the early part of the century through the plentiful and peaceful White Marsh Valley.

"Susan D. G—'s compliments to Miss Margaret and Miss Eliza A—, and requests the pleasure of their company to a quilting party on Thursday, the sixteenth of August." (Dated August 6, 1821.)

"Miss Margaret A—, your company is requested to a quilting party on Tuesday, the first of August. M. K—.

"Spring House, July, 1820."

Evidently the quilting party was the most wildly hilarious and highly approved form of social enjoyment, not to say dissipation, then in vogue, but there were also many other popular diversions woven into the homely and simple lives of the country folk, which, in their season, took the form of "apple cuttings," "apple butter boilings," "corn huskings," "flax pullings," "flax spinnings" and "turkey shoots," all of them, while attended with much and varied cheer for the participants, having a direct bearing upon the needs of the household.

The historian of the county draws a pretty picture around the wide-mouthed chimney places, on early winter evenings, after the busy time of sowing the winter

wheat had gone by and the fuel from the woodlands was split and piled high near the kitchen door, the cider pressed, the soap and candles made and stored, and roots distilled against the day of sickness.

He tells us that nearly everything of use in the family was produced at home, the flax grown, swingled and spun, and so the spinning wheel had its hour after the supper table was cleared, the daughters knit the socks and the men shelled the corn by the feeble light of tallow dips, while the cobbler, who boarded round, hammered and sewed the boots and discoursed the gossip of the country side.

The skilled arts were represented at every crossroads by the blacksmith, the wheelwright, the shoemaker, tailor and village weaver.

The early mills, built upon every abundant water course, were nearly all engaged from much earlier days in grinding grain, for the export of flour in colonial times was encouraged by the English, who equally obstructed the development of iron working and cloth making industries upon any considerable scale, and so the grist millers for generations had a great lead in prosperity which made them usually the financial heavyweights in their townships. The Farmers' Mill, upon the Wissahickon, near Flourtown, was built in 1703. Lane's mill, upon the Perkiomen, near the stone bridge, in 1708; Norris' Egypt Mill, at Norristown, in 1715; Spring Mill, at White Marsh, in 1750, and Davis' Mill, in Upper Dublin, in the same year.

Forty years before the coming of Penn this fertile region, which later developed into Montgomery county, was already well populated with a thrifty leaven of Europeans, its northern part by the Germans, its centre and southern section, nearer the settlements of the Delaware, by Swedes and English, and its eastern part by French, Scotch, Irishmen and Hollanders.

The first important highway traversing this land of plenty was the King's road, afterwards called the old Bethlehem road. It was projected in 1704 and completed through in ten years. Over its rough and sinuous course the market wagons toiled and jolted to the city for a century, less a couple of years, and then it became a turnpiked road, a part of the property of the Germantown and Perkiomen Turnpike Company, whose route commenced in Second street, continued through Germantown and Chestnut Hill and then upon the Bethlehem road to Plymouth Meeting and Perkiomen Stone Bridge, a work paid for through a lottery conducted by General Peter Muhlenberg, the "Duyvel Pote" of Revolutionary fame. The total cost of the road, twenty-five miles in all, was \$275,000.

The Welsh road, leading toward the Delaware at Holmesburg, was commenced in 1712 and the Limekiln road at or prior to 1716, and about the same time the Ridge road, commencing at Ninth and Vine streets, was piked through to the Perkiomen, thus giving a good route via Roxborough, Barren Hill and Norristown. With these improved highways and the Skippack road

and the extension of Church road, in Cheltenham, all parts of the county were easily reached and through traffic leading to the towns upon the Schuylkill and Lehigh Rivers was greatly augmented.

The earliest regular conveyance traversing the Bethlehem road was the "stage waggon," driven by George Klein, making one trip weekly each way in 1763 from the "King of Prussia" tavern, in Race street, to the "Sun Tavern," at Bethlehem, and return.

During the operations of Washington's forces in the period of the British occupancy of Philadelphia, and later the Bethlehem road became a great channel of military communication. The supply depots, hospitals, prison camps and recruiting rendezvous were mainly at or near Bethlehem, and the quiet little Moravian community was stirred with greater excitements than have ever befallen it, either before or since.

In 1797 "stages" left upon Wednesday mornings from Lehrer's Tavern, the sign of the "stage waggon," for Bethlehem.

The following year the mail line made the trip through in one day.

In 1802 Bethlehem and Allentown stages left the city from the "Franklin" and "Camel" taverns.

In the meantime strong opposition stage lines had been put on the York road to Bethlehem via Easton, leaving the "White Swan" tavern, in Race street, near Third, daily at 6 A. M., stopping at Willow Grove, Doylestown and Stony Point to change horses. This line, owned by John Nicholas, was running in 1820 from the "Green Tree" Inn, 50 North Fourth street, but five years later it was absorbed by an opposition company, which only retired from business in 1854 after 58 years of service.

In 1820 the "Union Line," a combination of stage owners, ran its coaches from the White Swan and another line started from Yohe's Hotel, upon Fourth street, above Market, both using the Bethlehem road.

Flourtown, which the wheelman pausing upon the verge of the bluff overlooking the White Marsh Valley will see, a couple of miles away, close by the willow-girt Wissahickon, was once a noted staging terminus with great expectations. Between 1820 and 1830 half a dozen daily stages, including Jacob Acuff's Mail Line, halted here each way, some of them going to Spring House and some to Broad Axe, and the old tavern, being just about good driving distance, was much resorted to by supper parties from town.

In all the circuit of her glorious environment Philadelphia claims no section more entrancing than this well cultivated interval between the highlands of Germantown and Chestnut Hill and the rougher upland region, in which are the foothills of the "South Mountain." Although great tracts have been bought and "improved" by the sweeping away of the humble homes of the bygone century to make room for costly modern

millas, while the droning flour mill is still and its waters escape from the once placid ponds, the ironworks but a ruin and the low-browed tavern a thing of the past, with the pageantry of their troop-trainings but a memory (for this was a great cavalry neighborhood), there yet remains a wealth of interesting landmarks for the explorer, and his swift wheel will find a better surface than ever before along Bethlehem pike, as he rolls up the miles between Stahlnecker's, at Flourtown, and Spring House, six miles up the road. Note that from Flourtown there is a good road upon the right to and beyond Camp Hill.

At the "Trenton cut-off" the short line of the Pennsylvania Railroad from Downingtown to New York, is the handsome new Fortside Inn, filled, in summer, with city folks. Here the Skippack turnpike bisects the Bethlehem road, and the old fort is to be seen upon the hillside a little way beyond, its exact site being defined by a tablet set in the stone wall by the roadside. Here the main part of the American army was encamped from October 20 to December 11, 1777, marching thence to Valley Forge. The old house, one of the best in the valley, used by General Washington as headquarters, is still an inhabited home. It is to the south of the hill upon which the fort was built and well back from the road.

The Butler turnpike leads upon the right over to the "Three Tons," upon Sumneytown pike.

Only last year the original "Spring House," which is said to have been the oldest of all the early taverns then in existence, the "Blue Anchor," in Dock street, only excepted, was modernized.

At Spring House corners the Sumneytown pike crosses, leading left to Gwynedd Corners, and from that point the State road is direct through Centre Square, Washington Square and Springtown (on the Reading pike), to Norristown.

The L. A. W. route to Bethlehem continues from Springhouse through Montgomery Square, Sellersville, Quakertown, Coopersburg and Allentown, with more or less experience of good, bad and indifferent riding.

Used the Meeting House as a Hospital—Large Assemblages Once a Year—Many Very Old Graves in the Graveyard.

At Friends' Corner, Gwynedd, at the intersection of the State Road and the Springhouse and Sumneytown Turnpike, eighteen miles from Philadelphia, on a little knoll sloping gently to the southwest, is situated Gwynedd Friends' Meeting House, which is a most interesting place to visit from the antiquarian's standpoint.

The grounds surrounding the meeting house are shaded by huge trees, embracing in variety the oak, shellbark, button ball, walnut and maple. Among the leafy branches of these the first birds of summer skip and carrol, and build their nests and brood their young, and at night is sentinelled the moping owl, who "does to the moon complain of, such as wandering near her secret bower, molest her ancient, solitary reign." Indeed, the quietude of the grounds is so striking that the visitor starts back with the feeling of one who has come into a forbidden place.

Along the entire upper end of the grounds extends a row of open sheds with a roof of moss-covered shingles. These sheds are for the accommodation of horses.

What was a familiar sight in days gone by, and what is now nearly extinct in this vicinity, what was known as a "horse block" is still standing near the turnpike. The "horse block" is a sort of platform, built of large flat stones, and is ascended by means of three broad stone steps, and was for the purpose of mounting horses—it being customary in olden times for both men and women to ride horse-back to meeting. The horse being led up along side of the "horse block," it could be mounted with little difficulty.

Three meeting houses have been built here—two of which have, after serving as places of worship for many years, been, in their turn, torn down, and another, larger and bearing more on the order of the architecture of the day, erected in its stead.

The first meeting was established here about 1700. The present meeting house was erected in 1823, and is still in a grand state of preservation. It is built of stone, with pebbled walls. Pebbled walls are now almost a "thing of the past." The pebbles to be found on the walls of the meeting house to-day are those which were put on when the building was erected, and, from all appearances, they are very likely to remain for numbers of years to come.

Washington used the meeting house at this place as a hospital before the battle of Germantown.

Before the erection of a meeting house at this place, meetings were held at different houses. The records of all

From, *Record*
North Wales Pa
Date, *April 4 / 96*

GWYNEDD FRIENDS' MEETING.

The First Meeting Established Here About 1700—Gwynedd Township Purchased in 1698 and Distributed Among the Original Settlers—Three Meeting Houses Have Been Built Near Where the Present House of Worship Now Stands—Washington



Gwynedd Friends' Meeting House.

marriages are kept in a fire-proof safe at Norristown meeting, as are also records of births and deaths and all other valuable papers connected with the meeting, although the old records of Gwynedd meeting are to be found at Sixteenth and Race streets, Philadelphia, in the Orthodox library. These records were, for many years, kept in Albertson's bank, Norristown, and they begin in 1698, the date of the first minute of Gwynedd monthly meeting.

In the year 1698 Gwynedd township was first purchased of Robert Turner, by William Jones and Thomas Evans, and distributed among the original settlers, who were William Jones, Thomas Evans, Robert Evans, Owen Evans, Cadwallader Evans, Hugh Griffith, Edward Fonke, Robert Jones, John Hugh and John Humphery. The two latter belonged to the society of Friends; the others being church people.

It is said that John Hugh and John Humphery began early to hold religious meetings at their home on the First-Day of the week. The other inhabitants belonged to the church of England and held meetings at the house of Robert Evans. As they had no officiating minister, Cadwallader Evans (whose descendants still reside on the old homestead) was in the practice of taking his bible with him. But (according to his own relations) as he was going to his brother Robert's to meeting one day, when he reached the road which led to where John Humphrey and John Hugh held their meeting, a voice seemed to whisper in his spiritual ear: "Go down and see how the Quakers do," which circumstance he mentioned at the

close of their meeting, and they one and all agreed to go to the Quaker meeting on the following First-Day. They were so well satisfied with their mode and manner of performing divine worship, that they never met again in their usual form of church worship. Their meetings now increasing, they continued to hold them at the houses of Hugh and Humphery for some time, and in the year 1700 they built a meeting house near where the present one now stands, and held meetings there by consent of Haverford Monthly Meeting.

The interior of the building is plain, harmonizing with the exterior and characteristic of the society that worships in it. The high-backed benches, or pews, as they would be called by "church people," are of hard wood and are free from paint or varnish. These benches are arranged peculiarly; those nearest the wall being elevated, and sloping gradually to the centre of the room. On the backs of many of these benches can be seen the initials of former "meeting goers," accompanied by very old dates. These have been carved with pocket knives. The reading desk of the secretary is attached to the back of a bench and is supported by wooden hinges, and is in itself a curiosity. Deep galleries extend entirely round the building. A partition in the middle of the building divides the men, who occupy the one-half of the building from the women, who likewise assemble in the other; it being the custom of the Friends for each sex to conduct a portion of their meeting in privacy.

Once a year Quarterly Meeting is held here, and Friends from three other meet-

ings all gather to assist the members of this meeting and to participate in this special service. The building is sometimes on these occasions taxed to its utmost accommodating capacity.

It is here that many couples have "passed meeting," and later been joined in the bonds of holy matrimony, according to Friends' ceremony; here also have the remains of many dear ones been viewed for the last time on earth. Immediately back of the meeting house is situated the burying ground, and truly indeed

"There the wicked cease from troubling,
There the weary beat rest."

The graveyard is also shaded by large trees, and running vines entangle the foot of the trespasser.

In the centre of these grounds, where "reigns the silent dead," is a giant chestnut tree, which is many times older than any living person. This tree measures 18 feet 4 inches in circumference.

In the days when graveyards were not so plentiful as at present, the remains of persons who died at quite a distance were brought here for interment.

Although there is no tomb to mark the place where many, weary and heavy laden, have found sweet repose, during the period at which the yellow fever prevailed in Philadelphia, scores of people were brought here for burial, and it is very evident that both English and American soldiers of the Revolution sleep here.

For many years Cadwallader Roberts had entire charge of the graveyard, but

for the past seventeen years Hugh Foreman, who has been a member of the graveyard committee for over forty years, has acted very acceptably as its overseer.

On several occasions coffin handles have been found while engaged in digging graves, indicating that at some previous time a grave had been located at the same spot; while it is a frequent occurrence to unearth the side of a coffin in making excavations. A new strip of land has lately been purchased and added to the old burying ground.

The oldest tomb stone in the burying ground is dated 1714. The inscription on it reads as follows:

HERE LIES THE BODY OF
MARTHA, DAUGHTER OF
HUMPHERY AND ANN
BATE, HIS WIFE. DE-
PARTED OF THIS LIFE,
APRIL 25TH, AGED 3
YEARS, 6 MONTHS, 1714.

This grave stone does not stand erect, but lies flat upon the grave, and is over one foot in thickness.

There are several other very old graves here. Among the number are to be

found some marked as follows:

M. J., 1788; L. F., 1749; M. C., 1770; M. L., 1751; there are several of the latter date. From another we gain the information that "James White, who was known to many in this vicinity, died June 28th, 1859, in the 104th year of his age." His wife, Elizabeth, died May 23d, 1830, in the 64th year of her age. In the "Mathers row" is an old tomb stone bearing K. F., 1769. Another tomb stone tells of the death of Jacob Roberts, who was Justice of the Peace for many years in Gwynedd, and who died the 20th of 8th month, 1851, aged 95 years, 4 months and 27 days. Still another informs us that Cadwallader Roberts was born 11th month 3rd, 1777, and died 2nd month 19th, 1871.

From,

Herald
Hornistown Pa

Date,

May 26 1896

VALLEY FORGE CAMPGROUND

Remains of the Occupation by
Washington's Army.

HUT HOLES AND HISTORIC TREES.

The Waterman Memorial Which is to
Be Dedicated Next April—A Field
Thickly Dotted With Patriot
Graves—The Historic Ground Should
Become the Property of the United
States Government.

Nothing strikes the thoughtful visitor to Valley Forge more forcibly than the excellent preservation of the forts and earthworks. Fort Washington and Fort Huntingdon and the breastworks in their vicinity are in as good condition as one would expect to find them after the lapse of twenty-five or thirty years. Nearly a century and a quarter has intervened since their construction, and their outlines are still distinctly marked, so that it needs no great stretch of the imagination to see the work in progress. What vast labor it must have been to those who undertook it in the most inclement season of the year, and a notably hard winter at that. Lower down the slope the fortifications which once existed have been leveled by the plough, but enough remain to demonstrate the unconquerable spirit which animated the officers and soldiers of the American army, which guaranteed

from the beginning the ultimate success of the cause in whose behalf they wrought.

The written history of Valley Forge deals very largely with the commanding general and his principal subordinates. It dwells upon Washington's Headquarters and those who were nearest him in command. It describes the fortifications which remain intact, but it says little of the encampment where lay, far below, the half-starved, ill-clad, suffering soldiers, whose valor and devotion to duty made freedom a possibility. It touches very lightly upon the rude huts in which they passed long months, the daily routine of drill, and the laborious work of cutting wood and transporting it to camp, often from a considerable distance. Even now the visitor to Valley Forge goes to the headquarters and the forts, and ignores the fact that the dust of thousands of brave men who perished, lies beneath the sod or the waving wheat or the freshly-plowed cornfields on the Stephens, Davis and Todd farms.

These all lie outside of the purchase by the Valley Forge Park Commission, and yet they are full of interest to all who are desirous of acquainting themselves fully with the details of this remarkable episode of the Revolutionary War.

The tract of woodland on the farm of I. Heston Todd, on the river side of the road from Port Kennedy to Valley Forge, though not of very great extent, is worth a careful examination. It is in the woods that the hut holes are to be found in their greatest perfection, because here the disturbing influence of the plough has not been felt. This locality was the cavalry camp, and here General Stenben, who had recently arrived in this country, drilled the raw recruits until they attained perfection in military movements.

The cavalry camp was on high ground. The view from this point, although not to be compared, perhaps, with that from the summit of Mount Joy, is magnificent. It takes in all or nearly all the ground covered by the fortifications and the encampment, and much more. The hut holes are distinctly marked and can be readily counted. They are probably twenty-five in number, and are very much like those on the ground occupied by Wayne's troops of the Pennsylvania line. In the central part is a mound where, possibly, may have been a hakeoven. Just beyond the line of huts in the direction of Washington's Headquarters is the cavalry parade ground where Stenben exercised his men and horses so vigorously, day after day, that nothing would grow upon it for many years, the earth was so packed and trampled.

Just across the road in a field of Mr. Todd is the stump of a massive oak, which is readily seen to have been the largest tree in all the country round. It is described as having an enormous spread of limb, even at the time of the encampment, a hundred and eighteen years ago. Under this tree was pitched the tent of Washington while his men were engaged in the construction of the huts which were to serve as their habitations for the winter. He had too keen a sense of their privations to enjoy himself under a roof

while they had no permanent shelter, and he remained here until all their dwellings were completed. In his general orders dated Dec. 17, 1777, he said, in support of his plan for the encampment:

"We must make ourselves the best shelter in our power. With alacrity and diligence, huts may be erected that will be warm and dry. In these the troops will be compact, and more secure against surprise than if divided, and at hand to protect the country. These cogent reasons have induced the General to take post in the neighborhood of this camp, and, influenced by them, he persuades himself that the officers and soldiers, with one heart and one accord, will resolve to surmount every difficulty with a fortitude and patience becoming their profession, and the sacred cause in which they are engaged."

It is interesting at this time, when describing the remains of these huts, to recall their dimensions and style, as given by Washington. They were, he says, to be 14 by 16 feet each, the sides, ends and roofs made with logs; the roofs made tight with split slabs, or some other way; the sides made tight with clay; a fireplace made of wood and secured with clay on the inside eighteen inches thick; this fireplace to be on the rear of the huts; the door to be in the end next the street; the door to be made of split oak slabs, unless boards can be procured; the side walls to be six feet and a-half feet high. The officers' huts are to form a line in the rear of the troops, one hut to be allowed each general officer; one to the staff of each brigade; one to the field officer of each regiment, and one to every twelve non-commissioned officers and soldiers. General Wayne wrote to Judge Peters, of Philadelphia, December 30, while these huts were being erected: "We are busy in forming a city. My people will be covered in a few days. I mean as to huts, but half naked as to clothing."

Until their work was done, Washington remained in his tent without a fire except that of logs outside. To facilitate the work he offered prizes to those in each regiment who should finish their labor most quickly, securing the best results. Until all was done he felt that he must remain under the old oak tree where he had pitched his tent. When the work was complete he made the Potts mansion his headquarters. The tree stood until five years ago, a portion of its trunk having become dry and dotted. One day Mr. Todd was notified that the tree was burning, and he hurried to the spot to find that some one had wantonly struck a match and set the dry wood on fire. It was not extinguished until it had ruined the tree. The stump remains and will mark the spot for a long time to come.

From this tree to the grave of John Waterman is but a short distance. It is on the hillside and is in a perfect state of preservation, having been cared for during a quarter of a century by Mr. Todd himself. The relic hunter, with the vandal's instinct, was ruining the headstone and footstone, common rough pieces, found in the vicinity, by chipping off pieces to carry away as mementoes. The Sons of the Revolution asked and obtained permission to place a wire screen over

the grave to prevent further desecration. The headstone bears the initials "J. W." and the date 1778. Waterman, a citizen of Rhode Island, died on April 23, and it is expected that the monument to his memory for which an appropriation of \$2000 has been made by the Legislature of the State and which is to be erected in the fall, after the crop of grain has been removed, will be dedicated on that date in 1897.

In this connection it should be mentioned that Mr. Todd has donated to the state of Rhode Island a tract of land thirty feet square including the grave, with a strip ten feet wide extending therefrom to the road, the only restriction being that the monument shall be erected beside the grave, not upon it, and he is ready to give more if it shall be needed. The visit of Governor Lippitt and his wife with a number of Rhode Island officials a few months ago, will be remembered, and the dedication next spring promises to be an important event, which will bring to Valley Forge strangers from all sections of the country and especially from New England. This, the only grave marked, is but one of many in the vicinity, for tradition has it that three thousand of Washington's men died of small-pox during the winter.

From this spot can be seen, a half-mile distant, a partly dead tree under which was erected a framework gallows and on it were executed three spies of Howe who came from Philadelphia to inspect the camp, and were captured within the lines and hanged after the formality of a court martial. 'Squire William Davis who died in 1883, in his eighty-seventh year, the uncle of Cyrus Davis, the present owner of the farm on which Wayne's troops were encamped, remembers seeing the timbers of the scaffold lying under the tree, weird reminders of the event, and his father, William Davis, a boy of fourteen years at the time of the hanging, detailed the circumstances of which he had been an eye-witness. William Davis, the son, gave these and many other interesting particulars to Mr. Todd, as he received them from his father.

Lower down, a hundred yards or more, is the level plain on which General Winfield Scott Hancock, Governor John F. Hartt and other prominent officials reviewed the military and civic societies on the occasion of the Centennial Celebration of the Valley Forge Encampment on June 19, 1878. There were five thousand men in line, commanded by General David McM. Gregg, including organizations from Philadelphia, Norristown, West Chester, Reading, Wilmington, Phoenixville, Media and elsewhere. Henry Armitt Brown was the orator of the day. There was a celebration of a somewhat similar character fifty years previous, when a half century had expired, many of the participants in the encampment being present, but the exercises were held at a different spot and dinner was served in the woods above the village. The exact date was July 26, 1828.

Many soldiers were buried in this field. William Davis stated that a person could walk the whole distance from the grave of John Waterman to the Todd mansion several hun-

dred yards away and step from grave to grave without difficulty. The old house on this farm was General Huntingdon's headquarters. It was pulled down in 1812, when the present residence of L. Heston Todd was erected, and the only building remaining as it stood in the days of the encampment is a portion of the old springhouse.

William Stephens narrates interesting reminiscences of great political meetings held at Valley Forge from time to time in past years. They occurred usually in the vicinity where is now the Camp schoolhouse, on the slope not far from Fort Huntingdon. At a Harrison gathering in 1840, Daniel Webster was one of the speakers, many thousands being present. In 1844 another was held. It was the Polk-Clay campaign, and delegations came from surrounding towns for many miles. The protective system was the issue then as now, and there was a monster procession in which various industries were represented, and the process of manufacture went on in the moving column, nails and many other articles being made. In 1852, during the Scott-Pierce campaign, an ox-roast was a prominent feature. This portion of the program was carried out in a small earthwork where are now clay pits on the slope of the hill. Many thousand people were present.

William Davis remembered in connection with the hakeoven still to be found in the woods on the Cyrus Davis farm, where Wayne's command was encamped, that the sheep ran in and out of it, and were occasionally found there seeking refuge from storms. There were large iron doors at that time on the oven, which have since been removed.

Practically every foot of the soil on the three farms mentioned in the previous portion of this article is hallowed ground, if the suffering and death of patriots who sacrificed all for their country can make it such. It should become the property of the state, or, preferably, perhaps, of the general government, which owes it to future generations to preserve intact, as far as may be, the relics that remain of the occupation by Washington's army. Dwellings then in use, like the original portion of the residence of William Stephens, should be carefully guarded as memorials of Revolutionary times. In any other country such action would have been taken years ago, and it ought not to be postponed any longer.

Washington's Headquarters is the property of the Centennial and Memorial Association, which will take care that it remains substantially as it now is for ages to come. The museum of Revolutionary relics is of much value, and should be made as complete as possible. The Valley Forge Park Commission has secured about 250 acres of land including most of the fortifications which remain in good condition. An appropriation to make needed improvements on this tract should be forthcoming from the next Legislature. Without this the money already expended would be practically thrown away. The ground covered by the encampment should be secured by the United States government and set apart forever for public use.

as a memorial of heroic endurance and self-sacrificing patriotism. The three proprietors need not clash. Each would have its own sphere of action and all would be working for a common purpose—to preserve as an inalienable inheritance of future ages the ground sanctified by the deeds of heroes done in the cause of their country.

From, *Times*

Phila Pa

Date, *May 31 / 96*

A COLLECTION OF 77 VALUABLE RELICS

MARTHA WASHINGTON'S SLIPPERS AND
THE GENERAL'S WILL.

HOW THE LATTER DISAPPEARED

It Was Borrowed From Miss Kate Scheetz by a Woman, and She Never Saw It Again. Afterwards She Was Surprised to Read That It Was Sold in a Collection for \$1,300.

Miss Kate Scheetz, of Mill Creek, Lower Merion, was the proud possessor of a pair of Martha Washington's slippers. There is no doubt as to their genuineness. Miss Scheetz received them direct from her grand-aunt, Mrs. Billington, of Alexandria, Va., who received them as a present from Mrs. Washington herself.

Mrs. Billington, of Alexandria, Va., was an old-time seamstress, and long sewed for the Washington family. On the death of General Washington Mrs. Billington, with the assistance of her two nieces, the Misses Scheetz, of Lower Merion, prepared sixteen suits of mourning for the bereaved relatives.

The gracious Lady Washington always treated Mrs. Billington as a valued friend, so that the latter became possessed of a number of priceless souvenirs. Among these was Washington's will.

This document was for years in possession of the Scheetz family, of Lower Merion. No doubt ever arose as to its authenticity. It is believed that Miss Scheetz rescued it from some old rubbish that had accumulated among the effects of her aunts, the above-mentioned Misses Scheetz, and her grand-aunt, Mrs. Billington.

Some years ago a woman visitor asked Miss Scheetz for the loan of Washington's will on the pretence of having a copy made. Miss Scheetz was foolish enough to let it go out of her hands and never got it back again. In 1891 she was surprised to see

in the Philadelphia newspapers that the Washington will had been sold with a collection of manuscripts, and brought \$1,300. How it came in possession of the seller she never discovered.

Miss Scheetz still retained some other valuable relics. Among these is a copy, yellowed with age, of the Alexandria Times, announcing the death of George Washington.

The slippers mentioned above, once worn by Martha Washington, are of white satin, with pointed toes and very high heels, tapering into a mere pivot under the instep. A modern helle could not walk in such a shoe. The satin, of course, is yellowed by time, but it shows little signs of wear. The inner sole is as fresh and clean as the day it was made. The edges of the slippers are bound with a stout silk galloon. Mrs. Washington must have been quite small, or else had very small feet, as the size of the slipper is not more than two and one-half, according to modern measurements.

Among the other relics lately in possession of Miss Scheetz is a lock of Charles Thomson's hair. It is long and frost white. Miss Scheetz's mother was one of the kindly neighbors who prepared the venerable Secretary's remains for burial, and wrapped the winding sheet around him, as was the custom in those days. It will be remembered that Charles Thomson, Secretary of the Continental Congress, lived in Lower Merion, on Mill creek, only about a mile from the Scheetz mills. The body was buried in the family graveyard, near Bryn Mawr, and reposed there for years until it was surreptitiously removed to Laurel Hill.

Miss Scheetz lived until recently on the historic Scheetz property, long famous as the site of one of the earliest paper mills in the American colonies. The Scheetz mansion, a picturesque stone structure, near the creek, stands deserted—the mill buildings are crumbling into ruin. But the beautiful, romantic woods surrounding all are as lovely and charming as ever. Miss Scheetz, the last of her family, resided in a cottage in the edge of the woodland, which resounded to the tread of five generations of her name.

It is generally believed that the first paper mill on the American continent was erected by William and Nicholas Rittenhouse, on the Wissahickon, in 1690. Miss Scheetz says that Horatio Gates Jones wrote this date in his pamphlet on the subject and afterwards became convinced that the Scheetzes settled on Mill creek even earlier. Be that as it may, Scheetz's paper mill was at least the second in the colonies, if not actually the first. It is known that five brothers, named Schutz, came from Switzerland very early in the history of Pennsylvania and brought the art of paper-making with them. The name Schutz, meaning "hunter" in English, was afterwards modernized into "Scheetz."

From the "Minute Book of Property," in vol. XIX of the Pennsylvania Archives, second series, it is learned that one Hans George Schutz received a warrant for a tract of land on the west side of the Schuylkill in 1717. On Scull and Heap's map of 1750 "Schultz's paper mill" is marked in the present locality of the ruins. In early colonial days the Scheetz family made writing paper. Later they manufactured all the paper for Benjamin Franklin's printing presses. At various times other mills were erected on the Scheetz property, and these were rented to other parties, who made different varieties of paper. One of these mills was noted for

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the manufacture of playing cards. There was quite a demand for these articles in pre-Revolutionary days, as invitations were printed on the backs of cards. During the Revolutionary War one of the Scheetz mills was run by Frederick Bickling, who made cartridge paper for the use of the Continental army. Congress offered Mr. Bickling, in consideration of his services, a tract of land in the northern part of what is now the city of Philadelphia. Bickling refused to accept "worthless commons." Had he taken the commons his descendants might have been among Philadelphia's millionaires, as some of the finest properties on Broad street are part of the same "worthless commons."

The most famous of all the Scheetz mills was the Dove Mill, where was made all the early government paper. The water-mark was "a dove with an olive branch." Bank-note paper for the United States Bank was also made here. Silk handkerchiefs were used in the manufacture. These were cut up and bleached and the threads mingled with the pulp. The Dove Mill was at different times run by the Scheetz, Bickling and Amles families. With the collapse of the United States Bank came the failure of the Scheetz paper mills. The property has been going to rack and rulu ever since.

The Dove mill dam, beautiful as a mountain lake, still remains in all its picturesque loveliness, surrounded by a dense growth of charming woodlands, as primeval in effect as though many miles away from a noisy railroad. Yet it is only about one mile from Ardmore.

Miss Scheetz, from her romantic cottage, could not turn her eyes in any direction through the woods, on either side of the rapid Mill creek, without resting them upon spots teeming with historic interest. Near her door is the ford where William Penn's old Gulf road passes through the creek and where William Penn himself erected a milestone, marked with "three apple dumplings," or three halls from the Penn coat-of-arms.

It seems quite appropriate that Miss Scheetz should have been the custodian of so many historic relics. Among the most interesting are a number of pieces of the old Dove mill paper, showing the water-mark. Crude enough appears the design to artistic modern eyes. But, crude as it is, inasmuch as it adorned our early government paper, that design has become part of the history of the United States.

From,

Imies

Philadelphia

Date,

June 7 '96

SOME QUAIN OLD BRIDGES

THE WOODEN STRUCTURES THAT SPAN
THE UPPER SCHUYLKILL.

ONE BY ONE THEY ARE PASSING AWAY

Floods Carried Many of the More Historic
Ones Away—The Swedesford Bridge, Below
Norristown—The Dekalb Street Bridge,
Which Was Built in 1829.

Who does not remember some quaint old covered wooden bridge of his childhood, spanning the stream which habbled and gurgled through his early life, a companion with whom dull moments were unknown. The long, dusty tunnel, full of great beams and arches, cool in summer, sheltering in winter, whose dark nooks caused thrills of enjoyable curiosity, not altogether unmixed with fear, as one traversed the passage, darksome and gloomy even in midday. How the old bridge shook and quivered as teams rattled over it, and how, when the circus came to town, the elephants must needs ford the stream lest their weight might cause the valued structure to collapse. Ugly and un-

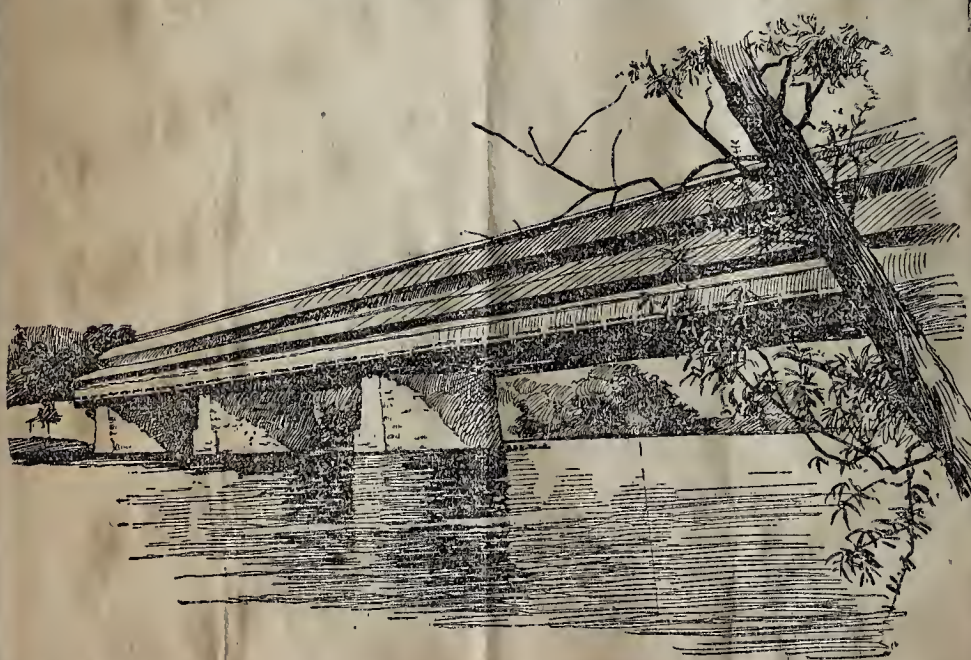


THE DE KALB STREET BRIDGE, NORRISTOWN



PHOENIXVILLE BRIDGE

THE LEBANON VALLEY VIADUCT, READING



SWEDESFORD BRIDGE, NORRISTOWN

cost \$31,200 when new. With its odd passageway for foot travelers in the centre, a trolley track on one side and a narrow driveway on the other, this bridge presents a style of architecture quite different from the usual models. It was made free in 1884.

The owners of these toll bridges naturally opposed to the utmost the efforts made to extinguish their rights, and a combination of

companies had a law passed by the Legislature back in the 70's prohibiting the erection of a highway bridge within 3,000 feet of an existing toll bridge. This was done so quietly that it excited no attention, but when the people of Norristown clamored for the freeing of the De Kalb street bridge, or, in lieu of that, the building of a borough bridge close by, the owners brought out their trump card in the shape of the new law and laughed at the opposition. Ultimately, however, the toll rights were condemned and bought off by the counties of Chester and Montgomery.

There are now no noteworthy bridges between Norristown and Phoenixville. The ugly one at Port Kennedy, built in 1849, is an excellent specimen of the hideous affairs which can never become picturesque should they last for centuries. There was once a chain bridge at Hawling, built, it is said, before the Revolution, which was washed away about the beginning of the present century. A new wooden one was built later on, which broke down in 1819, and another met with like sad fate. The present structure has been standing many years.

The bridge at Phoenixville is notable for many reasons. It occupies the site of a very old ford, which existed nearly two centuries ago, and where Lord Howe crossed the river after his battle of Brandywine on his way to Philadelphia. A British battery was erected where the Reading Railroad station stands, and solid shot were flung across the river at the American forces beyond. Many a soldier of both forces fell hereabouts. Directly above the bridge is one of the old Commissioners' dams, built in 1793 to improve the river channel, consisting of piles of loose stones, the object being to divert the current.

Phoenixville dates from 1732, but long before that settlers were numerous hereabouts. The mineral deposits were well known at an early date, and in 1683 Charles Packer mined for gold in these hills, with what result history fails to state. The bridge was built in 1845, and is therefore fifty years old. It is very ancient in appearance, and is one of the most picturesque objects along the river.

There are no noteworthy highway bridges above this one, although numerous structures of the Port Kennedy type disfigure the landscape. The handsome stone viaduct of the Reading Railroad at Black Rock, which cannot be seen from the car window, and the lofty bridge of the Lebanon Valley Road, west of Reading, are notable exceptions to the dull succession of useful if ugly structures which span the Schuylkill north of Phoenixville.







